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Japan

Government Reacts to Yeltsin's Assumption of Powers

Vows 'Further Efforts' on Aid Package

OW2103092793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 KYODO—Japan, reacting to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's televised address, on Sunday pledged "further efforts" to reach an agreement with other major industrialized countries on an emergency aid package for Russia. "The Government of Japan has consistently supported the reform policies spanning all aspects of the political, economic and diplomatic sectors advanced by President Boris Yeltsin," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said.

"The Government of Japan strongly hopes that these policies will be continued," he said. Hanabusa said Japan and its partners of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries have discussed "concrete measures" to support Yeltsin's policies.

"As the chair of the Tokyo summit, Japan intends to continue to make further efforts towards reaching a consensus among the G-7 nations," the spokesman said in a statement. The G-7 members—Japan, the United States, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada—are considering holding an emergency ministerial meeting in Tokyo to discuss ways to help the beleaguered Russian president and his reforms, in addition to the Tokyo summit July 7-9.

The statement followed Yeltsin's declaration of emergency rule Saturday to carry out a referendum on April 25 to determine the future course of the embattled country. "The Government of Japan strongly expects that President Yeltsin's reform policies will gain the support of the Russian people," Hanabusa said.

The statement also came as Japanese and Russian officials held an unusual Sunday meeting on a 100 million dollar humanitarian aid package to Russia.

Miyazawa Reaffirms Support

OW2203023393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0224 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday [22 March] reaffirmed his support for the reform policies of Russian President Boris Yeltsin following Yeltsin's declaration of emergency rule last Saturday [20 March] [sentence as received]. But Miyazawa said he cannot make any comment what is happening in Russia because it is strictly a domestic issue. He made the remarks to reporters at the Diet when asked about the power struggle between Yeltsin and the Russian parliament.

In related remarks, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono suggested support for Yeltsin's pledge to hold a referendum on a new constitution on April 25 to see whether the public supports a strong presidency. "I hope that (Yeltsin) will attain the support of the Russian people" for his reforms, Kono told a [words indistinct] news conference.

Kono, noting that Yeltsin is the only democratically chosen top leader, said that "Our view at present is that President Yeltsin is the only one in Russia promoting reform policies." Japan is "carefully watching and is very concerned about the domestic developments following the president's televised speech," he said.

Kono added, however, that he does not expect the latest developments in Moscow to alter plans to hold a mid-April emergency cabinet-level meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations on aid to Russia.

Some members of the Supreme Soviet—the permanently sitting inner chamber of the Russian parliament—have talked of impeaching Yeltsin following his declaration of emergency rule last Saturday [20 March] [sentence as received]. His action has been referred by the parliament to a constitutional court.

"The situation is uncertain and fluid. We are doing our best to collect information," Kono said.

Asked about German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's criticism that Japan is impeding G-7 aid to Russia, Kono replied that he would like Bonn to give a "correct evaluation of Japan's stance and record." Kono said disbursement of aid has been held up because the Russians have been unable to process it. "If the Russian side is ready we can go forward at any time," Kono said.

On Sunday [21 March] Japanese and Russian officials met in Tokyo to discuss implementation of 100 million dollars in humanitarian aid promised last year to the former Soviet republics.

Rebuts Criticism of Aid Stance

OW2203120393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1131 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday rebutted international criticism of Japan for its perceived reluctance in assisting economically strapped Russia.

Noting that Japan is a participant in a Group of Seven (G-7) program to help bring Russia out of its economic crunch, the prime minister disputed France's criticism of Japan for its alleged passivity in aiding Russia. "I believe French President (Charles) de Gaulle is saying this without the knowledge of things of that sort," Miyazawa said, mistakenly using the name of the former French president who died in 1970, instead of the current leader, Francois Mitterrand.

Miyazawa made the remark at a session of the House of Councillors' budget committee, replying to Wakako Hironaka of Japan's second largest opposition party, Komeito.

Mitterrand has indirectly rapped Tokyo's stance on a proposed G-7 emergency summit and has said an emergency meeting should be held even if it is attended only by countries that support it. The G-7 comprises the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

Of Japan's promised economic assistance, Miyazawa singled out the government's pledge of 700 million dollars in trade insurance for Russian imports from Japan of equipment for developing natural gas and oil deposits. "We cannot implement the project," because of conditions existing in Russia, he said.

"It is extremely regrettable that our country's goodwill is doubted because the Russian situation has barred us from implementing our economic assistance programs," Miyazawa said. Miyazawa's counterattack on the criticism against Japan over aid to Russia followed Sunday's charge by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel that Japan is the main reason there is not stronger G-7 support for beleaguered Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reforms.

Also at the same Diet session, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said that Japan has extended financial assistance worth nearly 500 million dollars to Russia since last year out of its pledged amount of 2.8 billion dollars. Tadakiyo Nomura, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, made the first official statement on the amount Japan has provided to Russia in financial assistance.

G-7 leaders promised a 24 billion dollar aid package to Russia last year, but only part of that money has reached Moscow because it has failed to present an economic reform plan acceptable to the International Monetary Fund.

Early G-7 Summit Not 'Eliminated'

OW2203065193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday he favors holding an emergency meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) on aid for Russia at the cabinet-level, but the possibility of advancing the July summit of leaders of major industrialized nations "has not been completely eliminated."

"There is still talk of moving up the summit, but it would be difficult to make sufficient preparations," Miyazawa told a meeting of senior government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) officials, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Motoji Kondo said. "I think it is best to convene a meeting of foreign and finance ministers," Miyazawa was quoted as saying in his first public statement on how he, as host of this year's annual summit meeting, intends to coordinate G-7 aid for embattled Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The premier's comment followed France's renewed call to move up the planned July 7-9 summit in view of Yeltsin's declaration Saturday [20 March] that he was imposing emergency rule.

Miyazawa said he expects to reach a final conclusion on the G-7 strategy toward Russia after Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada returns home Friday [26 March] from a trip to the United States, Britain, Germany and France. The G-7 also includes Italy and Canada. Owada is seeking support for Japan's proposal to hold a cabinet-level meeting in Tokyo in mid-April.

In a related development, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono indicated support for Yeltsin's pledge to hold a referendum on a new constitution on April 25 to see whether the public wants a strong presidency. "I hope that (Yeltsin) will attain the support of the Russian people" for his reforms, Kono told a news conference.

Japan is "carefully watching and is very concerned about the domestic developments following the president's televised speech," he said. Kono added, however, that he does not expect the latest developments in Moscow to alter plans to hold a mid-April emergency cabinet-level G-7 meeting on aid to Russia.

Some members of the Supreme Soviet—the permanently sitting inner chamber of the Russian parliament—have talked of impeaching Yeltsin following his declaration of emergency rule on Saturday [20 March]. His action has been referred to a constitutional court by the parliament.

"The situation is uncertain and fluid. We are doing our best to collect information," Kono told reporters. [passage omitted]

Officials Discuss Optimum Aid Use

OW2103061893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0533 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 KYODO—Japanese and Russian officials met Sunday [21 March] to determine how best to appropriate 100 million dollars in humanitarian aid promised last year to the former Soviet republics. The meeting looked at ways to use the proceeds of 20 million dollars in food aid for socially disadvantaged groups such as orphans and the elderly, Japanese officials said.

Eighteen officials representing local and regional governments in Russia and members of the Japanese Foreign Ministry in charge of aid to the Soviet republics took part. Tokyo hosted a meeting and last year to examine the aid question and pledged 100 million dollars. [sentence as received]

Toshiba To Sell Advanced Decoder Chips in U.S.

OW1903072893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0615 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Major electronics maker Toshiba Corp. announced Friday [19 March] it will market in the United States its three eight-bit microcontroller units (MCUS) for decoding closed caption broadcasting for the deaf and hard of hearing. TMP series one-chip decoder devices incorporate a tuning MCU to allow television makers to save the cost of building a separate tuning MCU like in conventional products, the company said.

Currently, some 30 percent of all U.S. television broadcasting is of closed caption broadcasts and the figure is expected to rise with the Federal Communications Commission's decision that TVS over 13 inches in size sold after July must incorporate a decoder chip for closed caption broadcasting, Toshiba said. Sample shipments will start in April, with a price tag ranging from 5.60 dollars to 6.20 dollars.

In addition to supplying the new microchips to other makers, Toshiba will incorporate them in all the TV sets over 13 inches in size that it markets in the U.S. from July, the company said.

Ministry Seeks U.S. Telecommunications Forum

OW2203120893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Japan will soon suggest to the United States the establishing of a forum to cooperate in building next generation telecommunication systems, the Posts and Telecommunication Ministry said Monday. A first meeting is being sought sometime in late April or early May, after the Clinton administration names the heads of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Japanese ministry officials said.

Informed sources at the ministry said the plan is aimed at heading off future friction between the two countries in the advanced communication technology area, because both see such communication systems as a key device in strengthening their economies.

In Japan, politicians and economists are discussing the launching of large scale projects with public funds to build an advanced telecommunications network called the broad band integrated services digital network (B-ISDN). It is being recommended as a major pillar of Japan's next pump-priming package which Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is expected to explain to U.S. President Bill Clinton when they meet in April.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, head of the Policy Affairs Research Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), told reporters the same day he believes establishing advanced telecommunication systems will create several trillions of yen in business. Although development projects in telecommunications have been led by the private sector, Mitsuzuka said the LDP is considering implementing such projects as public works.

In the U.S., Clinton has proposed a similar plan to connect local government offices, libraries and universities by advanced communication lines to encourage the country's economy. When Japan and the U.S. hold a bilateral forum on the issue, they can exchange information on their plans and technology, and possibly cooperate in developing new technologies, the ministry officials said.

Official Discusses U.S. Trade Target Talks

OW2203074993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0729 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Japan's vice trade minister indicated his intention on Monday to reject any talks proposed by the United States to specify targets for Japan's imports of foreign-made products. Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of international trade and industry, told reporters, "There could be various kinds of cooperation," suggesting that setting targets is not the only way to rectify the trade imbalance. His comments came in line with mounting concerns that the U.S. would demand targets in automobile parts and other products, following the agreed 20 percent target for the foreign share of the semiconductor market.

Ministers Concerned Over Yen's Rapid Rise

OW1903031593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Japanese ministers expressed concern Friday about a rapid rise of the yen against the dollar, saying the currency market is gripped by speculators and pointing to possible harmful effects on already weak business conditions.

Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said at a regular news conference after the day's cabinet meeting that he believes the upswing is a product of "very speculative moves" on the market, and that monetary authorities will promptly take appropriate measures if the Japanese currency keeps rising rapidly.

Yoshiro Mori, international trade and industry minister, said an excessive advance of the yen will hurt corporate profits and put a drag on the nation's economy. "Sudden changes by speculations in the currency market are undesirable," Mori said at a separate press conference.

Hajime Funada, director general of the Economic and Planning Agency, however, said at another press conference he does not see a need for measures to head off a further rise of the yen for the time being. His agency now plans to hold a hearing on the effects of the yen's value on import prices.

The yen shot up against the U.S. dollar in early Friday trading to a record intraday high of 115.80 yen, up 1.14 yen from Thursday's Tokyo close of 116.94 yen. At 10:30 A.M. Friday, the dollar stood at 115.98 yen. The dollar started dropping overnight on overseas markets, after a modest german official rate cut disappointed players, dealers said.

Miyazawa: No Need To Worry About Yen's Rise

OW1903054493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday [19 March] it is not necessary for the government to worry about the yen's advance to the 115 level against the U.S. dollar. Answering reporter questions at the Diet, the premier said the move should not create any particular worry "as long as it's not a wild fluctuation."

Watanabe: Talks With DPRK To Continue

OW2203132493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Monday that Japan will continue normalization talks with North Korea despite Pyongyang's declaration earlier this month of withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Watanabe said Japan "will not suspend (normalization) negotiations" and does not want to break channels of communication with North Korea.

Watanabe, speaking at the day's session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, implied, however, that Japan will link diplomatic normalization with North Korea to Pyongyang's readiness to defuse a security crisis stemming from its suspected nuclear arms development program. "Unless suspicions regarding North Korea's nuclear program are cleared up, Japan will find it difficult to normalize diplomatic ties," he said.

North Korea announced on March 12 that it is pulling out of the NPT pact obliging signatories to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities. The announcement came two weeks before the expiry of the March 25 deadline imposed by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for bringing the nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council.

Last week Watanabe asked China, North Korea's closest ally, to try to influence Pyongyang to rescind its decision to withdraw from the NPT.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the same committee session he deplores the fact that the Japanese public education system has not taught students sufficiently about Japan's wartime history. He made the remarks in response to Kijun Sakurai of the opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan], who said Japanese teachers "have not taught the history of wars" Japan fought against other nations.

Miyazawa said accounts of modern history "are carried in the latter parts" of school textbooks, but that it is "a deplorable fact" that lessons do not cover these parts and students "tend to avoid learning" about them. He said he wants students who will grow up to become future Japanese leaders to "acquire precise knowledge" of the modern history of Japan.

Last week, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by historian Saburo Ienaga, who claimed Education Ministry directives on some accounts of a history textbook he wrote violates a constitutional ban on censorship.

Yamahana, ROK Officials Hold 'Secret' Meeting

OW2103090793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Takamatsu, March 21 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ], Japan's largest opposition group, disclosed Sunday he held a secret meeting with the new chairman of the South Korea-Japan Parliamentarians Union in Tokyo on March 6. SDP sources said the meeting took the form of a courtesy call on Kim Chae-son and was the first meeting between Yamahana and a high-ranking South Korean official.

Yamahana said at a news conference in Takamatsu that in his talks with Kim he expressed an interest in visiting South Korea and sought Kim's help in bringing about a visit. He did not elaborate.

The day after the unpublicized March 6 meeting, Yamahana declared at a meeting of regional SDP secretaries general that the party, which had been pro-North Korea, unconditionally supports the 1965 Japan-South Korean Treaty. That treaty established diplomatic relations between the two countries. The South Korean Government has said that an SDP chairman is not welcome in Seoul unless the SDP unconditionally backs the treaty.

Tokyo Concerned Over SRV's Role in Cambodia

OW2203005693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0039 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Japan will use the visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet this week to raise concerns about the influence Hanoi continues to have over Cambodia's Government, a Foreign Ministry official said. Tokyo is dismayed at Hanoi's "considerable influence" over the government it installed in Phnom Penh after ousting the Khmer Rouge in 1979 and the issue will be one of the major topics to be discussed during Kiet's four-day visit starting Wednesday [24 March], the official said. Kiet, 70, will be making his first visit to a major industrialized nation when he visits Japan. He is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Emperor Akihito and business leaders.

The Japanese official's expression of concern follows recent criticism by the U.N. Transitional Authority in

Cambodia (UNTAC), which accused the Phnom Penh Government of major violations of Cambodia's peace accord. In February, UNTAC rapped the Cambodian Government Army for waging the biggest offensive against Khmer Rouge guerrillas since the start of UNTAC operations a year ago.

UNTAC also said the government had eight former Vietnamese soldiers in its Army, a breach of the Paris cease-fire accord which mandates the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cambodia. The ministry official said, "of course, Japan supports UNTAC's criticism against the presence of eight Vietnamese soldiers in the Cambodian Government Army."

"We believe the Hanoi Government still wields considerable influence over the Phnom Penh Government," he said. "When Mr. Kiet visits here, Japan will take up the Cambodian issue as one of four major pillars of debate for enhancing bilateral ties," he said.

Three other fields of possible cooperation would be Japanese investment in undersea oil fields and other industries, Official Development Assistance (ODA) and providing technical know-how, in addition to Hanoi's collaboration on the Cambodian peace process, he said.

The official said Japan is aware of Hanoi's pressing needs for foreign aid and investment to cure its economic malaise. "Although Hanoi received huge aid amounting to 1 billion dollars annually from the former Soviet Union until 1989, the aid has vanished from 1990 following the disintegration of the Soviet Union," he said.

Japan broke its 14-year suspension of aid to Hanoi last November, extending 45.5 billion yen in commodity credit. The official suggested that additional aid may be offered during Kiet's visit. But political analysts say Miyazawa will have to carefully consider three factors before pressing ahead with proposals to expand business and political ties with Hanoi.

Last Thursday [18 March], Miyazawa received a petition from members of the 5,000-etrong community of Vietnamese residents in Japan—resettled boat people who fled Vietnam after the 1975 fall of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). They asked the prime minister to urge Kiet to free 538 known political prisoners.

Au Minh Dung, director of the Japan chapter of the dissident group National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam, said Hanoi is still holding some 35,000 political prisoners, of which it identified 538, along with their sentences and places of detention.

Other possible deterrents to unconditional expansion of bilateral ties include lingering reservations of the United States, Tokyo's ally, on lifting a 29-year-old trade embargo without making some headway in discovering the fate of 2,264 U.S. servicemen who are considered either missing or prisoners of the Vietnam war. The third possible deterrent is the fact that the financially troubled country, with a population of 70 million, still maintains a disproportionately large military of 850,000 people, making it the largest armed force in Southeast Asia.

Miyazawa may have to consider Japan's ODA guidelines linking its aid to a recipient's readiness to whittle down its high level of military spending and improve its human rights records, they added.

UN Plan Excludes Tokyo From Mozambique Operations

OW1903140293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1347 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—The United Nations has drawn up a peacekeeping operations plan for Mozambique that excludes participation by Japan, Japanese Government sources said Friday.

The world body concluded in late February that Japan would not dispatch its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to Mozambique to join the 7,500-strong UN peacekeeping mission, the sources said. At that time, close to a deadline for responding to an informal request by the UN to send 50 to 60 troops to Mozambique to help control transportation, the Japanese Government decided to send a fact-finding team to study the feasibility of sending the SDF to the southern African nation. The eight-member mission, which left for Mozambique on March 4, returned to Japan on Tuesday [16 March].

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is expected to make a final decision early next week on Japan's participation after studying the mission's reports, the sources said. Miyazawa has expressed reservations about sending troops to Mozambique. In Friday's House of Councillors' Budget Committee meeting, he suggested that stationing diplomats in Mozambique is necessary to maintain contacts between Tokyo and the Mozambique Government.

Chief cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono has also expressed reservations about sending troops to Mozambique, citing concern that the government might lose public backing if it expands Japan's peacekeeping role too rapidly.

The Foreign Ministry, however, is eager to boost Japan's contribution to UN peacekeeping activities. Some officials in the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have also voiced willingness for Japan's participation. Japan sent a 600-member engineering team from the SDF to Cambodia last September, the first overseas deployment of Japanese ground troops since World War II.

Report: Conditions Permit Mission to Mozambique

OW2203132193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1236 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Conditions permit Japan to send peacekeepers to Mozambique, a government mission said in a report submitted Monday. The mission that recently visited Mozambique submitted the report to Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, who serves as Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's top adviser on peacekeeping matters, officials said.

Kono was quoted as saying only that he would read the report and further consider the issue of whether to dispatch a Self-Defense Forces (SDF) contingent to Mozambique to take part in a new United Nations peacekeeping operation. The report said all five conditions for Japan's joining U.N. peacekeeping efforts abroad have been met. Conditions include a cease-fire and assurances that Japanese personnel will not be drawn into combat. It said there are high expectations in the southern African nation that Japan will make an "active contribution" and said it is important for the international community to help Mozambique consolidate peace. The eight-member mission, led by the Foreign Ministry's U.N. bureau official Masaki Konishi, went to Mozambique on March 4.

An election is to be held in Mozambique now that a peace accord between the government and rebels last October has ended a 16-year civil war in which at least 600,000 rebels died.

Government sources said last Friday the U.N. has drawn up a peacekeeping operations plan for Mozambique that does not include participation by Japan, which has previously been expected to send 50 to 60 troops to help with transport logistics. Miyazawa, who has expressed reservations about sending troops to Mozambique, is expected to make a final decision on Japan's participation after studying the mission's report. Both Miyazawa and Kono are reportedly concerned the government might lose public backing if it expands Japan's overseas peacekeeping role too rapidly. But the Foreign Ministry is eager to boost Japan's contribution to U.N. peacekeeping activities. Japan sent a 600-member engineering team from the SDF to Cambodia last September, the first overseas deployment of Japanese ground troops since the end of World War II.

Prosecutors Plan New Kanemaru Indictments

OW2203042793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Prosecutors will file additional indictments against former ruling party power broker Shin Kanemaru and his former secretary by late March, informed sources said Monday. The sources said prosecutors plan to file charges if they can prove the former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and his secretary Masahisa Haibara evaded tax on hundreds of millions of yen worth of bank debentures. The indictment would be made by March 27, the end of the period in which the two can legally be held [words indistinct] already filed charges that they tried to evade taxes on hundreds of millions of yen of income, the sources said.

The Tokyo district public prosecutors office is also determined to prove the men evaded tax on hundreds of millions of yen worth of "wariko" bank debentures issued by the Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd., the sources said. The tax evasion for the bank debentures is believed to total more than 1 billion yen, they said. The court-approved a 22-day detention period for former Kanemaru and Haibara, which the court extended by 10 days on March 17, is to expire March 27. [passage omitted]

The source said the charges relate to only some of the one billion yen worth of "wariko" bank debentures prosecutors confiscated in a March 6 raid on Kanemaru's office. Discount debentures are sold to investors for less than face value and redeemed for face value when they mature after one year, when investors can chose to redeem them at a profit or replace them with new ones. The debentures do not have to be registered by name.

Prosecutors allege that Kanemaru bought more than 50 billion yen in bank debentures and gold bars using money he pocketed from political donations, the sources said. Most of the political donations are suspected to have come from construction companies in his native prefecture of Yamanashi and Tokyo. The prosecutors have questioned senior officials of Yamanashi-based and Tokyo-based construction companies about alleged donations to the retired political power broker. Kanemaru stepped down from politics last October after prosecutors filed a summary indictment against him in violation of the Political Funds Control Law.

Question Executives on Donations

OW2103203693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 KYODO—Prosecutors questioned the executives of Kajima Corp., Aoki Corp., and other major contractors Sunday on suspicion of giving money to fallen ruling party leader Shin Kanemaru in return for his clout on assigning public works projects, investigative sources said.

The questioning by the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors' Office followed Saturday's questioning of executives from Tobishima Corp. and Nishimatsu Construction Co. In connection with allegations that Kanemaru skimmed off such political donations, evading taxes on the income, the sources said.

Kanemaru was indicted March 13 on a charge of failing to declare 200 million yen in income in 1987 and dodging 118 million yen in taxes that year. Prosecutors have said they plan to file additional tax evasion charges for subsequent years.

The prosecutors Sunday had the leading contractors submit accounting records allegedly linked to secret political donations to the kingmaker, who marshaled Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) legislators behind Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in the 1991 LDP presidential race, the sources said.

The court-approved 22-day detention period for the former LDP vice president—extended for 10 days by the court on March 17—is to expire March 27.

The probe has led the prosecutors to conclude that 600 million yen worth of income Kanemaru allegedly neglected to declare to tax authorities in 1989 includes political donations from major contractors and also from smaller construction companies in his home prefecture of Yamanashi, they said.

The prosecutors have found that Kanemaru's purchases of discount bank debentures shot up in 1989—the year the LDP fought an uphill battle in a House of Councillors election because of public outrage over the 1988-89 recruit stocks-for-favors scandal, the sources said.

Kanemaru might have pocketed some of the donations from construction and other companies, donations which increased sharply in 1989 to finance the LDP's heightened need to collect campaign funds to cultivate the goodwill of angry voters, they said.

The sources said the prosecutors are pressing the construction executives to reveal whether Kanemaru promised to direct public works projects to their companies in exchange for larger donations. The prosecutors are also demanding to know when and for what purposes the contractors allegedly gave cash donations to Kanemaru, who is noted for his strong clout over Construction Ministry bureaucrats and politicians with ties to the ministry, they said.

Kanemaru had acted as the leader of the "kensetsuzoku,-" literally construction tribe, a group of parliament members who allegedly have a strong say in appropriations for public projects because of their cozy relationships with the ministry, they said.

A National Tax Administration Agency probe—covering a one-year period until June 1992—found that Japanese businesses left 55.8 billion yen unaccounted for in their tax returns, of which the construction industry accounted for some 70 percent.

The leading contractors and Yamanashi-based smaller contractors allegedly funneled handsome secret donations regularly to Kanemaru that were not accounted for in either political funds balance reports to the Home Affairs Ministry or in tax returns, they said.

The prosecutors are determined to outline a systematic mechanism for donations from leading construction companies in parallel with their investigation of the tax evasion charges against Kanemaru, they said.

Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported Sunday that Kanemaru used to receive kickbacks amounting to "1 percent of the value of a public works project" from contractors every time he wielded his clout over the government to assign "large-scale projects" to them.

NHK said in an evening news program that major contractors visited Kanemaru's office in Tokyo's Nagatacho to learn how the government would distribute public works money to municipal governments across Japan. "Contractors wanted to obtain information as senior bureaucrats from prefectural governments throughout Japan used to visit his office to petition for budgetary appropriations (for public works projects)," NHK reported, quoting informed sources. The contractors wanted to count on "Kanemaru's powerful influence over the National Construction Administration," the report said. The public television network also said the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors' Office seized account books from Kajima and Aoki that allegedly linked their secret cash donations to Kanemaru. "A sizable portion of political donations Kanemaru has received came from leading contractors," NHK said.

Rice Retailer Indicted for Illegal Marketing

OW2203081293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0652 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Toyama, March 22 KYODO—A rice retailer who asked the Food Agency in 1991 to file a legal complaint against him for defying Japan's rice price control system was indicted on Monday for marketing rice by bypassing officially-mandated sales routes.

Prosecutors lodged the indictment against Isonobu Kawasaki, 56, president of Kawasaki Shoten Ltd., a company that has acted as a major rice retailer and wholesaler in Toyama Prefecture. The indictment marked the first such legal action since Japan's Foodstuff Control Law was amended in 1982. Such indictments are rare in postwar Japan, except for those filed immediately after World War II. Kawasaki, who has charged that the 1942 law causes disadvantages to consumers, urged the Food Agency to bring him to a tribunal in November 1991 by submitting his accounts to the agency, including wholesale invoices and sales slips. The law mandates that farmers sell their rice products at an officially-subsidized price to the government, which in turn sells the rice via wholesalers to retailers. The law was imposed during the World War II, as the wartime government needed to secure the nation's stable supply of rice. Last October, the Food Agency, affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, filed a formal complaint with prosecutors seeking Kawasaki's indictment.

Prosecutors said in an indictment paper that Kawasaki sold off 800 million yen worth of rice to 2,000 consumers without obtaining permission from the authorities and going through officially-sanctioned subsidized routes. The prosecutors also said that Kawasaki sold rice to other retailers in the city of Takaoka in Toyama Prefecture. Following the indictment, Kawasaki told reporters, "I am thrilled at the news of the indictment against me. Through court hearings from now on, I will prove how outdated the Foodstuff Control Law is." Rice sold to consumers by bypassing officially-mandated wholesale routes accounts for some 30 percent of all the rice sold in Japan annually. Kawasaki is the author of a book entitled, "Dear Mr. Food Agency, I Am a Secret Rice Retailer."

Police raided Kawasaki's home and eight sales outlets and offices last October, forcing a shutdown of his rice retailing business. Kawasaki, however, resumed retail services in February, publicly saying, "I want to be indicted to bring light to contradictions in the Foodstuff Control Law."

Survey Shows Big Business Expects Upturn

OW2203084793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Many large Japanese companies, looking for signs of improvement in their businesses, are predicting a quarter-on-quarter upturn in the July-September period, a survey released Monday by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) showed.

The MOF's quarterly survey on business projections, conducted in February, said its business conditions index for large companies are expected to bounce back to the plus side in the July-September quarter, while those for middle-standing and small companies are predicted to post smaller downturns. "There is a sign of improvement in the economic conditions," one MOF official said judging from the index shown in the survey.

The survey covered 11,854 businesses with a capital of 10 million yen and more, except financial and insurance sectors, of which 86 percent, or 10,146 companies, responded. The index represents the percentage of companies which say business conditions in a certain quarter have improved, or will improve, from the previous quarter minus that of those saying the environment has worsened, or will worsen.

For the July-September period, the index for large companies is 4.8, a turnaround from the minus 20.1 in the January-March quarter and minus 8.4 in the April-June quarter. The index for middle-standing firms for the July-September period is minus 2.5, improving from the minus 24.8 in the January-March period and minus 15.1 in the April-June period. That for small companies is minus 6.1, also improving from the minus 27.7 and minus 18.5.

Now that fewer companies are expecting worsening business conditions, the official said a brake is beginning to be applied to the economic slowdown. Companies are expecting an upturn in sales and profits in the first half of fiscal 1993, which begins on April 1. They predicted an average 1.3 percent increase in sales in the first six months, improving from an expected 1.7 percent drop in the second half of fiscal 1992 ending March 31. They also expected to post an average increase of 5.7 percent in pretax profits in the first half of fiscal 1993, compared with an expected 21.8 percent decline in the second half of fiscal 1992. Employment conditions have eased at large and middle-standing companies, while small firms have continued to suffer labor shortages.

The index for the tightness of the labor market, the percentage of companies reporting a labor shortage minus that of those having a surplus, is estimated at minus 8.7 by large companies at the end of March, compared with minus 3.3 at the end of December. Middle-standing firms put the index at minus 2.6 at the end of March, a turnaround from 4.0 at the end of December, while small companies put it at 14.0, compared with 19.4 three months earlier.

North Korea

1.5 Million Youth, Students Volunteer To Join Army

SK2203060193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0524 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—Young and middle-aged people and war veterans across the country are turning out as one in the defence of the motherland, determined to fight self-sacrificing battles for the party and the leader, and the socialist motherland in hearty response to the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army declaring a semi-war state to the whole country, the entire people and the whole army.

According to data available, in ten days or more since the order was issued, some 1.5 million youth and students volunteered to join the people's army and many demobilized soldiers and veterans of the fatherland liberation war evinced their determination to stand again guard over the defence posts.

Among them there are many youths and working people who wrote in blood "I Shall Fight With Life for Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il. Sacred War for Reunification. 1993", "Let Us Become Fortress and Shield Defending Comrade Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of Our Revolutionary Armed Forces to the Death", "Defence of Motherland", "National Reunification", "Fortress, Shield", "Retaliation", "Long Live Our Motherland!", and "Let Us Defend Socialism!", when they volunteered to join the army.

The fact that so many youth and students and working people across the country are vying with each other to join or rejoin the army is a striking demonstration of the rockfirm faith and will to cast in their lot with the party even under the grave situation, and defend our inviolable republic and protect the dignity of the chuche Korea.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, has said in the order:

"If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets provoke a new war, our people and the people's army will fight to the last for the sake of the party, the leader and our style of socialism centred on the popular masses which had been achieved at the cost of blood, thus dealing a crushing blow to the aggressors and exalting the dignity and honour of heroic Korea once again."

The youth who at the 8th congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK], a congress of loyalty and singlehearted unity, vowed to become five million rifles and bombs defending the party and the leader with lives have risen as one to exalt the honour of being lefeguards and death-defying corps, tightly holding the rifles placed in their hands by the first and second generations of the revolution, upon receiving the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

Some 700,000 young workers, peasants and intellectuals who are effecting a great upswing in the socialist construction with a hammer or sickle in one hand and a rifle in the other have resolved to stand guard over the posts of the motherland.

Young people of the Komdok Mining Complex, the Chollima Steel Complex, the Anju District Coal Mining Complex, the Nakwon Machine Complex, the June 1 Youth Electric Appliances General Plant, the Pyongyang Textile Combine, the Sinpho Fishery Station and other industrial establishments, cooperative farms and institutions vied with one another in turning out for the defence of the motherland, saying that nothing is more honourable and important than to safeguard our party and the socialist motherland.

Tens of thousands of students of Kim Il-song University, Pyongyang Univeristy of Medicine, O Chong-hop University and 280 other institutions of higher learning and students of guaduating classes of more than 6,000 higher middle schools have collectively volunteered to join the army.

Demobilized soldiers and veterans of the fatherland liberation war are also ardently applying for their return to the army to protect the socialist fatherland which they had defended with blood, sharply watching the criminal "special inspection" moves.

In South Hamgyong Province alone, some 27,000 discharged soldiers have resolved to return to their defence posts. Some 700 war veterans in Yangdok county, South Pyongan Province, have volunteered to stand again guard over the motherland with the same spirit with which they defended heights of the country at the cost of blood as soldiers in the grim days of the war.

The youth and students and working people across the country who have volunteered to join or rejoin the army with the firm resolution and ardent patriotism to defend our style socialism to the last are firmly determined to valiantly fight and wipe the enemy out at a stroke as they did in the last war, should he eventually provoke a war. All their hearts are filled with the conviction of victory and the strong will to annihilate the enemy and thus protect the party, the leader and the socialist motherland to the last.

Further Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Reaction

IAEA: DPRK Making Weapons-Grade Uranium

AU2203131493 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 22 Mar 93 p 164

[Unattributed report: "Uranium in Trouser Turn-ups"]

[Text] Donat Petrunin, 60, still remembers his bad mood at that time. The hours of the flight from Vienna to Pyongyang were difficult. In addition, the North Koreans prohibited the Russian nuclear physicist from leaving the hotel without being accompanied.

Even back in 1978 inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were not popular in the empire of dictator Kim Il-song—even when they came from the socialist fraternal states.

It did not take long to check the small Russian research reactor in Yongbyon. Even though North Korea did not join the nonproliferation treaty until 1985, IAEA inspectors had access before that because they had to check on the use of fuel delivered from third states.

The inspection was supposed to show whether the enriched uranium supplied by the USSR had already been used. Petrunin and his Italian colleague visited the reactor hall and looked at the spent fuel elements, which were stored in a water basin. The next day they returned to Europe.

When the fastidious nuclear scientist from Moscow unpacked his suitcase in his apartment in Vienna he got a shock. Particles of radioactive waste were clinging to this shoes and to the turn-ups of the trousers he had worn during the inspection. Petrunin, who usually washes even his briefcase after his inspection tours because he is afraid of radioactive contamination, asked a friend for an analysis of the residue. The result was alarming: The particles were typical waste products that develop during the production of uranium-233.

Uranium-233, a substance that emits dangerous gamma rays, has similar qualities to plutonium-239. The IAEA had long suspected that threshold countries were using a cheap and simple method to obtain raw material for nuclear weapons. High-technology countries do not use this method because of the high radiation risk to those who work with it.

Petrunin distrusted the North Koreans for yet another reason: Within a little less than a year the nuclear scientists in the small four-megawatt reactor had used an amount of fuel elements that should have been enough for 10 years. All over the world it is a fact that research reactors are closed down for extended periods after brief experiments and are prepared for the next test.

In North Korea, however, the reactor seems to be working at full capacity the whole time, Petrunin reported to his superior at that time. The fresh fuel elements are used within the shortest possible time, which suggests the secret production of uranium-233 or plutonium. Petrunin's conclusion: "Something must be wrong there."

However, such findings must not turn up in the official report on his inspection trip, a copy of which was given to the North Korean Government, because the IAEA, which is known all over the world as a rather ineffectual control body, takes painstaking care not to become criticized as an "espionage organization." Petrunin: "My Italian colleague always said: Donat, why are you doing more than you must?"

Nevertheless, the Russian expert's findings were evaluated internally. Every year the nuclear scientists in Vienna analyzed which countries were making efforts to join the exclusive club of the nuclear states. At that time, the data landed on the desk of Aleksandr Rumyantsev, 53.

The nuclear physicist comes from the renowned Moscow Kurchatov Institute, named after Igor Kurchatov, the developer of the Russian nuclear bomb. Rumyantsev made some calculations and presented his results: In view of the traces of uranium-233 and the extremely intensive operations of the reactor, it is "highly likely" that the North Koreans are producing weapons-grade material. The reactor of Communist Party potentate Kim Il-song would produce between 0.5 and 2 kg of uranium-233 or plutonium.

In addition, Rumyantsev suspected that the capacity of the four-megawatt reactor of Yongbyon had been secretly increased—not a particularly difficult thing. By using additional cooling technology, the Russians increased the capacity of their reactors of the same type to up to 10 megawatts in the mid-1970's.

The nuclear scientist, who lives in Moscow again now, is certain: "There is no other logical explanation for the way in which the North Koreans operated their reactor. The physical data is unambiguous." In his department, too, the result was undisputed. Rumyantsev: "No other country has ever operated its research reactor like the North Koreans."

Sanctions Would Face 'Corresponding' Action

SK2203114893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1119 GMT 22 Mar 93

["We Will Answer Imperialist Reactionaries' New Sanctions With Corresponding Measures"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—The withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) is a just self-defensive measure to defend the dignity of the nation and the supreme interests of the country under the grave situation created in the country by the anti-socialist, anti-DPRK moves of the imperialist reactionaries, declares NODONG SINMUN today. The DPRK Government's step to withdraw from the NPT reflects the unshakable will of the Korean people to safeguard their national dignity in any adversities, united closely around the party and the leader, the paper notes, and stresses:

Since the DPRK categorically rejected the unreasonable "special inspection" infringing upon the sovereignty of the country and withdrew from the NPT, the United States might take this matter to the United Nations Security Council and impose "sanctions" on it in political, economic and other fields. Whatever "sanctions," "blockade" and military threat on the part of the U.S.-led imperialist reactionaries and their followers, however, can never frighten the Korean people. We will answer their new sanctions with corresponding measures.

We who regard the sovereignty of the nation as their life and soul will never allow our inviolable national dignity and sovereignty to be encroached upon and the destiny of the nation to be trifled by outside forces.

As long as we are under the wise guidance of the party and the leader, we will always emerge victorious in face of any challenge by the imperialist aggressors. This is the Korean people's faith and will.

It is not without reason that the United States decided to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises while launching the "special inspection" campaign.

At this juncture, the DPRK switched over to a semi-war state and took a determined step to withdraw from the NPT. This is a patriotic decision not to allow the nation to fall a victim to foreign aggression and nuclear war.

The Korean people will do everything they can to meet any challenge by the U.S.-led imperialist reactionaries and safeguard the inviolable dignity and sovereignty of the Korean nation under the wise guidance of the great party and the great leader.

'Source': Travel Ban on PRC Region Holds

OW1903112093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 19 KYODO—North Korea is continuing to suspend travel to and from a Korean minority autonomous region just inside China following its declared state of "semi-war" in protest at South Korean-U.S. war games, a reliable Chinese source said Friday [19 March]. North Korea announced a state of semi-war throughout the country after South Korea and the United States started a 10-day "Team Spirit" military drill March 9. Pyongyang has imposed an indefinite suspension on individual travel but still allows the traffic of trucks for barter trade, the source said. North Korea has taken the action to prevent detailed information about the semiwar policy from leaking out of the country, the source said.

About 500 travel every day between the Korean nationality's autonomous region in Yangbian, Jilin Province, and North Korea mainly for commercial purposes. The autonomous region was established in 1952. Visits to North Korea by the Korean residents in the autonomous region decreased sharply last July when Pyongyang banned marine products from being taken out of the country.

North Korea also imposed a ban on short-term trips from the region after China established diplomatic relations with South Korea last August. Tension on the Korean peninsula has heightened following Pyongyang's announcement last Friday [12 March] that it will pull out from the 154-member Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which checks the spread of nuclear weapons and related technology.

DPRK Against Sovereignty Encroachment

SK2103091193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0852 GMT 21 Mar 93

["Any Encroachment on National Sovereignty Would Not Be Tolerated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 21 (KCNA)—The DPRK's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is a legitimate self-defensive step to safeguard the country's sovereignty and security and the cause of socialism, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

We would never tolerate any act of encroaching upon our national sovereignty and supreme interests of our country in the future, either, stresses the article.

Noting that the DPRK had to withdraw from the NPT because the United States gravely threatened its sovereignty and security by resuming the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and some officials of the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency forcibly adopted a "resolution on special inspection" of ordinary military sites of the DPRK, thus addressing themselves to an act of gross infringement on its sovereignty and security, the article says:

The United States and some hostile forces are trying to do harm to our country, a non-nuclear state, with outcries over our fictitious "nuclear development" while mentioning not a word about the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and nuclear war moves and closing their eyes to Japan's moves toward a nuclear power and the nuclear arms development of the South Korean authorities. How could we remain indifferent to this?

Only by withdrawing from the NPT could we defend our national sovereignty and supreme interests of the country and greatly contribute to safeguarding the common interests of non-nuclear states, the Third World countries.

Now Japan and some other countries are trying to refute the justice of our republic's withdrawal and justify their unreasonable acts, saying they "regret" it and "international isolation" might result from it. But it is a foolish attempt.

Charge Explains NPT Withdrawal

AU1903133493 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 16 Mar 93 p 9

[Interview with Yi Chun-muk, charge d'affaires of the DPRK Embassy in Prague, by Viliam Buchert; place and date not given: "The DPRK Believes That Ties With the Czech Republic Will Not Be Severed"]

[Text] Some time ago, the DPRK expressed its disagreement with the Czech Republic as the successor [to the CSFR] in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC] for maintaining the truce on the Korean Peninsula. Moreover, at the end of last week, the Pyongyang government decided to withdraw from the Nuclear Arms Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Both of these decisions caused great excitement and gave rise to numerous speculations. Therefore, we asked Yi Chun-muk, charge d'affaires of the DPRK Embassy in Prague to explain the Korean stance.

According to North Korea, the Czech Party Violated a Fundamental International Norm

[Buchert] Could you explain what led the DPRK Government to reject the continuing participation of the Czech party in the NNSC?

[Yi Chun-muk] The Czech side, unilaterally, and without any previous consultation with us, decided after the partition of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on its succession in the NNSC. We believe it to be a violation of an international norm as the other party, i.e. the DPRK, had not been consulted. We were presented with a fait accompli, and we have not accepted it.

[Buchert] Would it be possible that the 1989 change of the political system in the Czech Republic and the subsequent cooling off of the mutual ties between our countries affected this decision?

[Yi Chun-muk] It played a role but it certainly was not the decisive factor. After all, similar changes took place in Poland, and it may remain in the NNSC as far as we are concerned. The fact is that Poland remains Poland, and Czechoslovakia no longer exists. After all, we have the right to choose for the NNSC anybody we want.

[Buchert] According to a release by the Czech Embassy in the DPRK, the NNSC are under duress.

[Yi Chun-muk] Since we have not recognized the succession of the Czech Republic in the NNSC after the partition of the CSFR, we could not satisfy all the demands of your NNSC members either.

[Buchert] Some time ago, the Czech Republic demanded that you reduce the level of your diplomatic representation to the number of Czech diplomats in Pyongyang...

[Yi Chun-muk] We consider it a forced linking of the NNSC issues and the bilateral ties. We believe that it is not a wise thing to do and, as a result, our ties will further deteriorate.

[Buchert] The Czech NNSC members and some of your diplomats will end their tour on 10 April. Some experts go as far as predicting a possible severance of diplomatic ties between the Czech Republic and the DPRK.

[Yi Chun-muk] I do not believe it would come to that. We are interested in maintaining our ties.

DPRK Military Bases Cannot Be Opened Even to Special Inspections [subhead]

[Buchert] The decision of the DPRK to withdraw from the NPT met with strong disagreement in the world.

[Yi Chun-muk] The withdrawal is a reaction to the decision made by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of directors, which, having conducted six inspections here without obtaining any evidence that we produce nuclear arms, raised the demand for a special examination of two military bases at the nuclear research center. We will not allow this for security reasons, as it could damage our defensibility. This way, the IAEA would be at liberty to check any bases anywhere in the world.

Moreover, we believe that the IAEA does not work independently but rather its operation is affected by the information from the United States intelligence service, for instance.

[Buchert] Another reason you mentioned for the withdrawal is the joint American-South Korean military exercises, Team Spirit.

[Yi Chun-muk] We consider these exercises a preparation for war against the DPRK and a violation of previous treaties.

[Buchert] The Seoul reaction to the rejection of further inspection of the nuclear facilities was disapproving. Are you not afraid that the already very complex talks on the unification of Korea may have to be terminated?

[Yi Chun-muk] According to our sources, South Korea, as opposed to us, is capable of producing nuclear weapons, yet nobody inspects the facilities there. We do not believe that the United States withdrew all nuclear arms from the south of the Korean peninsula. Well, and the problem of the unification is directly linked to this issue. It seems, however, that expectations are not any greater after the accession of the new president in South Korea than they were before.

[Buchert] Under what circumstances would you be willing to again allow inspections of your nuclear facilities?

[Yi Chun-muk] Until the request was made for the special inspections at our military bases, we had the best intentions of cooperation, and if the special inspections and Team Spirit exercises are canceled, the former state of affairs might be reestablished.

Further Reportage on Yi In-mo Repatriation

Greeted by Kim Il-song

SK2003075093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Seventy million fellow countrymen and all the world's progressive people are paying attention to Panmunjom. Amid this, Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and a long-term unconverted prisoner, returned to the bosom of the great leader [suryong]—the bosom of the socialist fatherland—yesterday, which he has missed for more than 40 years. He has unyieldingly overcome all sorts of hardships.

Comrade Yi In-mo at 1104 [0204 GMT] was carried into the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom in a wheelchair, with an injection needle driven in the subclavian artery for Ringer's solution.

After the two sides' liaison officials of the North-South liaison office at Panmunjom settled working matters, our side's medical doctors were briefed on Comrade Yi In-mo's condition and treatment process by the South side's medical doctors. They also received the case history sheet of Yi In-mo and other clinical records by the South side. Our side's doctors had a simple diagnosis.

His wife, daughter, son-in-law, grandson and granddaughters, who entered the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission after the doctors' diagnosis, rushed to him, shedding warm tears, and had an emotion-charged reunion with him, whom they have missed so ardently.

Comrade Yi In-mo, who is in extremely bad condition, tightly grasped his beloved wife's hands and slowly turned his head to the left and to the right. He responded to the greetings of his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson and granddaughter with a nod. Comrade Yi In-mo, aided by our side's medical functionaries, came out of the conference room and entered our side's area. Comrade Yi In-mo, receiving warm congratulations and a warm welcome at the front yard of Panmungak, entered an ambulance, and headed for Tongilgak.

Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and secretary, conveyed to Comrade Yi In-mo a message from the great leader and the dear leader, which says that they warmly congratulate Comrade Yi In-mo on his return and highly assess him as the incarnation of faith and will.

The ambulance carrying Comrade Yi In-mo, which stopped at Tongilgak for a while, began to move slowly toward Pyongyang. Cadres and other relevant functionaries of the party and the government accompanied him.

Tens of thousands of the masses, who were lined up along a route of some 12 km from Panmunjom to Kaesong, warmly welcomed Comrade Yi In-mo. The cheer of the masses, who warmly welcomed Comrade Yi In- mo, reached a climax in Kaesong city and Sariwon city.

Dialogue on Yi's Prison Life

SK2003143393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0850 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Dialogue by station correspondents Chong Song-kang and Choe Yong-hui: "Hero of Reunification With Indomitable Faith and Will"]

[Text] [Chong Song-kang] As was already reported, the long-standing issue of the repatriation of Yi In-mo, former military correspondent of the Korean People's Army [KPA], was resolved. He finally returned to the bosom of the socialist fatherland from South Korea. Even though his return is late, it is very fortunate that he has returned to the bosom of the socialist fatherland.

[Choe Yong-hui] Yes, you are right.

[Chong] When they heard this news, all the people across the country were greatly touched and excited. They extend sincere greetings to him. This is natural.

[Choe] Yes, right. As for Comrade Yi In-mo, our people call him the hero of reunification, the incarnation of faith and will, and proud son of the nation.

[Chong] Right.

[Choe] He has returned to the bosom of the great leader and the party and to the bosom of the socialist system of our own style centered on the popular masses. This is a very impressive event.

[Chong] Right.

[Choe] Comrade Yi In-mo's return means socialism's victory over capitalism. His return greatly demonstrates the superiority of the socialist system of our own style.

[Chong] Yes, you are right. Comrade Yi In-mo's life provides a very noble lesson to the people.

[Choe] Yes, right.

[Chong] His experiences and ordeals clearly answer the question, what is the most worthwhile and brilliant life for the people who regard independence as lifeline?

[Choe] Yes, right. As was already well known through his memoirs, he spent 34 years in prison in South Korea.

[Chong] Right.

[Choe] It is really difficult to spend 34 years in prison.

[Chong] Right.

[Choe] Considering what South Korea's jails are like, which is recognized internationally, the prisons where political offenders are confined are the most desolate, barren land of human rights. South Korea's prisons are much more miserable than hell. Thus we can say that South Korean prison are the hell of hells.

[Chong] Yes, right. All words about tribulations and ordeals—dark and gloomy cells where a ray of sun does not enter; piercing cold; frequent reckless torture; unbearable starvation and diseases; and solitude more painful than death—show how South Korea's prison life is.

[Choe] Yes, right.

[Chong] Yi In-mo spent 34 years, from the days of his youth in his early 30's to old age in his 70's, on the border of life and death while overcoming suffering and ordeals.

[Choe] Yes, right. Once, because Comrade Yi In-mo spoke a word, he was taken to a basement cell and tortured. He was so battered that his ribs and leg were broken. This cruelty infuriates us.

[Chong] Right.

[Choe] A rat once fell into his soup bowl. Comrade Yi In-mo, who had a nickname because of his childhood fear of rats, ate the rat. This shows how hungry he was in jail.

[Chong] Right. To avoid the winter's piercing cold, he deceived a jail guard by saying that [words indistinct].

[Choe] Yes, right.

[Chong] If we tell about all the suffering he experienced in 34 years in jail, there will be no end.

[Choe] Yes, right. Comrade Yi In-mo overcame the suffering and ordeals with the power of a Superman. This is not because he attached importance to his life. If he attached importance to life, he could have avoided all physical and mental suffering merely by converting his ideology. Thus, he could have led a free life.

[Chong] Right.

[Choe] However, he regarded the conversion of his ideology as death, so he never took that road.

[Chong] Yes, right. Yi In-mo felt that coverting was the most indelible road of betraying the party, the leader, the fatherland, the nation, his family, and his relatives and of giving up his political life and faith.

[Choe] Yes, right.

[Chong] His faith in and loyalty to the party, the leader, the fatherland, the nation, his family, and relatives are a lofty political asset that cannot be replaced. This was his motto in the struggle. In this regard his faith and loyalty enabled him to overcome all kinds of hardships and difficulties. His faith and loyalty were the source of his strength in resolutely living and fighting during the past 34 years, maintaining his integrity and overflowing with faith and optimism.

[Choe] Yes, that is true. It is clearly shown in the poem "The Azalea," which Comrade Yi In-mo recited while in prison, about how he overcame the ruthless hardships and difficulties by holding on to overflowing resolute faith and optimism. Shall we read a verse of that poem and continue our talk?

[Chong] Yes.

[Choe] The azalea does not blossom first in spring Like the selfish maehwa blossom Arrogantly trying to bloom Before all other flowers Even before the snow melts, But the azalea is in full-bloom In time with the spring wind Painting the mountains and fields with azaleas. The simplicity of the azalea Blooming unspoiled Shows the future of a bright fatherland. This is the endless love for thee Who will never be forgotten. Do you know of my love of the azalea?

[Chong] This poem implies Comrade Yi In-mo's lofty spiritual world overflowing with faith and optimism in which he unyieldingly overcame the revolution's integrity in any adverse situation. Comrade Yi In-mo's life vividly shows through real experience how our revolutionary fighters should truly live and fight for the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the nation. I believe that this is a precious textbook of life and a valuable example.

[Choe] After reading the letter by Comrade Yi In-mo's daughter Comrade Yi Hyon-ok, our dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a personal letter saying that our party has not forgotten Comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will.

[Chong] Yes, this is the greatest expression of faith and love of our party toward the revolutionary fighter Comrade Yi In-mo, and the greatest happiness and highest honor for him. Even though Comrade Yi In-mo lived in South Korea for about 40 years and was completely deprived of his youth and happiness, we can say that he came to possess the dearest life of elucidating the lofty political life forever of a hero of reunification, an incarnation of faith and will, and a proud son of the fatherland.

[Choe] Our people will never forget Comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will. Even though he is at the end of his life, we truly hope that he will be happy in the bosom of the party, the leader, the fatherland, the people, and the gratifying socialist system of our own style centered on the popular masses.

[Chong] Yes. We shall end our talk here.

Send-Off by 'Fellow Countrymen'

SK2003075593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] According to a broadcast report from Seoul, Comrade Yi In-mo, the former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and long-term unconverted prisoner who is the incarnation of faith and will and hero of reunification, was given a warm send-off by the South's fellow countrymen at Pusan University Hospital where he had been hospitalized on 19 March, when he departed for the North.

Waving a flag picturing a map of Korea, which was used when table tennis players from the North and South participated as a single team in a tournament, some 200 university students and members of dissident organizations sat up all night at the hospital singing "Our Wish Is Reunification" in chorus and warmly bade Comrade Yi In-mo farewell, while throwing confetti.

Meanwhile, members of the Pusan branch of the Family Movement Consultative Council to put Democratization into Practice arranged a send-off party at his ward before Comrade Yi In-mo departed for the North. They also asked him to convey the reunification movement of Southern figures to compatriots in the North.

Comrade Yi In-mo was visited by student Yim Sukyong, flower of reunification, on 17 March. Kim Sang-won and his wife, and many others gave Comrade Yi In-mo a souvenir to congratulate him on his return.

In departing for the North, Comrade Yi In-mo said he was elated to be able to meet his family whom he had missed even in his dreams for the past 43 years. He then expressed thanks to the South Korean fellow countrymen for the warm care they have given to him. He gave (?ballpoint pens) engraved with "Let Us Meet Again in a Reunified Fatherland" to those who had helped and taken care of him as souvenirs.

Earlier, Comrade Yi In-mo, upon hearing the happy news that he was being repatriated to the northern half of the Republic, said warmly that he would dedicate the remainder of his life to the reunification of the fatherland and to the nation's harmony upon his return to Pyongyang.

Kim Sang-won and his wife who have taken good care of him accompanied him to Panmunjom.

KCNA Reports Homecoming Welcome

OW1903161693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, arrived here this afternoon on his repatriation to the socialist homeland.

More than 300,000 people of broad strata turned out along the scores of ri long streets in the capital to greet the proud son of the nation.

Seen along the route and high-rise buildings lining it were portraits of the great leader President Kim Il-song and slogans reading "Long Live the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song excl." And "Long Live the Glorious Workers' Party of Korea excl."

Flags of the republic and red flags were seen fluttering on the streets as well as slogans reading "Long Live the

Korean People United Around the Party and the Leader in One Mind excl.," "Let Us Accomplish the Historical Cause of National Reunification at any Cost by the United Efforts of the Whole Nation exnl.," "Warm Welcome to Comrade Yi In-mo Returning to the Embrace of the Great General Excl.," and letters and posters reading "Yi In-mo, the Hero of Reunification," "Yi In-mo, the Incarnation of Faith" and "Yi In-mo, the Incarnation of Will."

When the ambulance car carrying Yi In-mo appeared at the entrance to Thongil street stormy cheers burst forth and waves of flowers rolled along the route.

He was warmly met and consoled with the feelings of kinship by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok and chief of General staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang who are politburo members of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea; Kim Yong-sun, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., WPK; Kim Chung-nin and Kim Kuk-thae [spelling of name as received], secretaries of the C.C., WPK; Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council; Yang Hyong-sop [spelling of name as received], chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; presidium members of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, leading officials of public organizations, generals of the KPA and officials concerned.

A school boy and girl presented flowers to Mr. Yi In-mo, wishing him an early recovery.

Builders of Thongil Street, Koreans from Japan and veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War presented him with flowers and a garland.

While waves of emotion and joy rolled on violently, the ambulance headed for Chollima Street, threading its way through the corridor of thick crowds.

A large red board inscribed with the autographic reply "Our Party Keeps in Memory Comrade Yi In-mo, the Incarnation of Faith and Will. Kim Chong-il. February 24, 1993" written by the dear leader Comade Kim Chong-il to a letter from Yi Hyon-ok [spelling of name as received], daughter of Yi In-mo, was seen and numerous flags were fluttering vigorously at the Pyongyang railway station plaza.

A large number of working people struck up the band, beat drums and gongs and spread a beautiful scene of dances along [word indistinct] street from the railway station to the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

The welcome of citizens of the capital to the hero of reunification reached the climax at the Kim Il-song Square. The crowds waved bunches of flowers and raised cheers to the top of their lungs, shedding tears of emotions when they saw Yi In-mo, a proud son of the Korean nation.

Workers, intellectuals and students presented flowers and garlands to Yi.

Welcomers extended warm congatulations to him also from the verandas and windows of high-rise apartment houses.

The ambulance passed by the Pothong Gate and Pyongyang Senior Middle School No. 1 via the Changjon intersection and made for the hospital.

Raising cheers and waving flowers, the crowds sincerely wished Yi In-mo an early recovery so that he could tread the land in good health and live in happiness with his dear wife and children under the Korean-style socialism centred on the masses.

Yi In-mo enjoyed enthusiastic welcome from tens of thousands of people at Panmunjom, in Kaesong and Sariwon on the way to Pyongyang.

DPRK 'Seething With Emotions'

OW1903154893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The people of all strata in the northern half of Korea are highly appraising the indomitable will of comrade Yi In-mo, a former war conrrespondent of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and an unconverted long-term prisoner who triumphantly returned to the bosom of the socialist motherland 43 years after he left it while fighting dauntlessly in any adversities defying human imagination. And they warmly welcome him as the incarnation of faith and will, proud son of the nation and the hero of reunification. Ri Hong-chu, secretary of the primary party committe of the February 8 Jiktong youth coal mine in South Phyogan Province, said although comrade Yi In-mo could have avoided hardships living in prison for a long time if he had inked the paper of ideological conversion, he did not choose the dirty road.

"Comrade Yi In-mo could win victory in the fight against the enemy without abandoning faith and principle even under the atrocious tortures beyond human imagination and appeasement for 34 years because he was well aware that the revolution would emerge victorious and the country would surely be reunified as long as there are the party and the leader," he said.

U Kyong-suk, secretary of the primary party committee of Pyongyang Kaeson Senior Middle School, said Comrade Yi In-mo, the hero of reunification, is a paragon of true fighters and revolutionaries who showed in practice how the chuche-type communist revolutionaries should live and fight.

Son Kwang-son, a party member at the youth tunneling workteam of the Kumsan pit of the Ryonghong mine in South Hamgyong Province, said the revolutionary faith and principle of comrade Yi In-mo are precisely based on the conviction that victory of the revolution lies in following the road indicated by the great leader.

Yun Chang-u, a former KPA war correspondent, residing in Mangyongdae District, said comrade Yi

In-mo was one of the many who acquired with their whole heart through their life experience the truth that they could not live even for a moment apart from the bosom of the great leader and the party, the bosom of the socialist motherland.

"The whole country is now seething with emotions upon hearing the news of his homecoming because he fully showed the whole world the immovable truth that the noble faith of human beings, the firm faith of our people in the victory of the socialist cause, cannot be broken at the point of the bayonet or with anything," he emphasized.

People in North Welcome Repatriation

SK2103095193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 21 Mar 93

["'The Repatriation of Comrade Yi In-mo Is Victory of the Faith of the Korean Revolutionaries'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 21 (KCNA)—Broad strata of people in the northern half of Korea warmly welcomed the repatriation of Comrade Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and the incarnation of faith and will, to the socialist homeland, saying it is a proud victory of the Korean revolutionaries.

Yim Son-il of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland said that the return of Yi In-mo to the bosom of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the embrace of the socialist homeland, is one more victory of our people for reunification and a victory of our-style socialism centred on the popular masses.

Secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee Kim Chang-ho said that the repatriation of Yi In-mo who fully displayed the heroic stamina of a revolutionary soldier faithful to the great leader is a proud victory of the faith of the Korean revolutionaries and another event which verifies the triumph of socialism over capitalism.

Vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Committee Sin An-pang said that Yi In-mo is a proud son of the nation who overcame all hardships and trials with the strong will and the conviction of a certain victory that the motherland will be reunified and the cause of socialism will triumph as there is the great general and the dear leader leads our revolution at its head.

He stressed that the repatriation of Yi In-mo to the socialist homeland at a time when the imperialists and the reactionaries are alleging that socialism "has met its end" is a clear declaration that socialism is the ideal of mankind.

Department Director of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Pak Myong-ok said that she keenly felt once again through the repatriation of Yi In-mo that nothing can overpower justice and truth and the conscience of the world stands always on the side of justice and truth, the side of our people.

NODONG SINMUN: U.S. Plans 'Military Domination'

SK2003055693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 20 Mar 93

["Invariable Ambition for Military Domination—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 20 (KCNA)—Officials of the U.S. State Department recently said that "U.S.-Japan Relations of Cooperation Should Be Strengthened for the Security" of the Asia-Pacific Region and the U.S.-Japan Alliance Should Be Maintained" as long as the "suspicion of nuclear arms development" by the DPRK remains unsolved. This betrays the U.S. intention to realise its military domination of the Asia-Pacific region by replying on the "U.S.-Japan military alliance," says NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst notes:

The United States has made the Asia-Pacific region the main theatre of the cold war to cope with the changed situation, toughened the policy of a showdown of strength in this region and stepped up the building of the structure to this end.

It seeks to threaten and use arms against the socialist countries and other progressive forces with the military alliance with Japan as the basic means of the execution of the cold war policy in this region.

It also plans to inveigle other nations into the U.S.-Japan "security" system. By so doing, it intends to knock into shape a new collective military system in the Asia-Pacific region under the cloak of "regional security" and execute its policy of military confrontation through it.

To stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with allied forces and gratify the wild ambition for political and military domination of the Asia-Pacific region is the goal sought by the United States.

Herein lies the danger of the U.S. call for the "U.S.-Japan cooperation" and "U.S.-Japan alliance".

If the U.S. imperialists persistently pursue the policy of strength, getting more insolent, it will only precipitate their own destruction.

Joint U.S.-ROK Team Spirit Exercise Continues

17-18 Mar Combined Staff Exercise Noted

SK2103094493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0915 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets staged an allround combat commanding staff exercise, the highest reach of the "Team Spirit 93" joint military rehearsal, on March 17 and 18, according to military sources.

It involved units of the U.S. First Army including the 25th Infantry Division of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces, expeditionary units of the U.S. First and Third Marines, the U.S. Seventh Fleet, the U.S. 5th and 13th Airforce, the U.S. imperialist aggression forces stationed in South Korea and huge puppet armed forces.

Also mobilized in it were groups of warships of the carrier Independence and of a nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser, a mixed landing helicopter carrier, guided missile destroyers, nuclear-powered submarines, nuclear-capable strategic and other types of fighter-bombers, eletronic jamming planes, ground-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft guided missiles, etc.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged ground attack exercises in the areas of South and North Chungchong, Kyonggi and South Korean Kangwon Provinces on March 18. And on March 17 and 18, they held a joint air war exercise aimed at a wholesale intensive strike at the northern half of Korea in the skies above Yonchon, Yoju, Yongwol, Chungju and Anmyon islet.

On March 17 and 18, the U.S. imperialists committed an aerial espionage on the northern half of Korea on more than 30 occasions by E-3 AWACS, RC-135 and other reconnaissance planes.

They also held a naval attack exercise in the east and west seas of Korea that day by mobilizing one hundred and several dozen combatant ships.

The warplanes involved in the war exercises from 9 to 18 March totaled more than 8,500, and combatant ships of the Navy over 1,400, and aerial espionage numbered more than 1,400 cases.

ROK 'Chief Executive' Remarks Denounced

SK1903124293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 19 Mar 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Remarks of S. Korean Chief Executive"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The South Korean chief executive on March 16 showed up at a site of the "Team Spirit" military exercises and said that "unification is possible only when strength is built up" and "it is also possible only with strength to lead the North to reforms and opening."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says this is, in a nutshell, nothing but an agitation of "showdown of strength" and war between the North and the South.

The news analyst notes:

What is necessary for a peaceful reunification of the country is not "strength" but practical steps to defuse tension, remove the danger of war, achieve reconciliation and unity and realise cooperation and exchange between the North and the South.

"Unification by strength" and "reforms and opening based on strength" urged by the South Korean authorities are a repetition of former dictators' "doctrine of unification by prevailing over communism". It is infeasible and contrary to the will and interests of the fellow countrymen.

The South Korean rulers' agitation of showdown and war by "strength" bespeaks that they have not discarded the pro-U.S. flunkeyist, separatist stand of their predecessors who had sought "security of regime" and acted servants in the execution of their master's policy of aggression and war, crying for "national security" under the pretext of fictitious "threat from the North".

If the South Korean rulers truly want to pursue "civilian politics", they must break with the flunkeyist, fascist and anti-reunification "Fifth and Sixth Republics" and shape politics for national independence, democracy and the independent and peaceful reunification.

Japanese Politician on Exercise

SK2003063893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 (KCNA)—An emergency meeting was held in Tokyo on March 15 to denounce the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

Participating in the meeting were Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives of Japan Kazuo Saito, secretary of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea Hiroshi Wakabayashi and other public figures and people of Japan.

Vice-chairman Pae Pyong-tu of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and the director of its international department were present on invitation.

Addressing the meeting, the chairman of the executive committee of the meeting said that the United States was scheming to expand the scope of inspection with a "special inspection" by the International Atomic Energy Agency, though six rounds of IAEA ad hoc inspection of the DPRK had been made and that the moves of the United States proceeded from its intention to stifle the DPRK, a bastion of socialism.

He strongly demanded a stop to the criminal "Team Spirit 93" joint military manoeuvres.

The speakers expressed full support to the order of Comrade Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the statement of the DPRK Government and condemned the U.S. policy of aggression centering on the Korean peninsula.

They called for a powerful movement against the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

The meeting adopted an appeal against the "Team Spirit 93" joint manoeuvres.

Saying that the relaxation of tension and security on the Korean peninsula are a key to peace in Japan and Asia, the appeal called for a struggle to put an immediate end to the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises, accomplish the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and normalize Japan-Korea diplomatic relations.

UK Party Members on Exercise

SK2003062293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 20 (KCNA)—Robert Parry, Tony Benn, and Dennis Canavan, Labour members of the House of Lords and 31 other British parlimentarians on March 10 submitted to the parliament an emergency resolution denouncing the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities. In the resolution, they urged the United States and the South Korean authorities to stop the "Team Spirit 93" joint war game, considering that it only wrecks the process of detente and aggravates tensions on the Korean peninsula after the cold war.

Japan Court Decision Favoring History Book Viewed

SK2003063993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 20 Mar 93

["Forgery of History for Overseas Expansion"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 20 (KCNA)—The Supreme Court of Japan a few days ago passed a judgement supporting the stand of the reactionary government to compile a "Textbook of History" praising the Japanese imperialist aggression on Asia during the second world war. Commenting on this, MINJU CHOSON today says:

The Supreme Court whose mission is to judge the execution of laws supported and praised the past aggressive act of Japanese imperialism. This indicates that the Japanese reactionaries are becoming undisguised in their manoeuvres to incite the fever of aggression among the Japanese people and legalize and invigorate their overseas expansion.

The news analyst goes on:

It is not accidental that they plan to make a "Textbook of History" praising the aggression of Korea and Asia by Japanese imperialism in the past days, at a time when the Japanese reactionaries are intending to sharply increase the troops of the "Self-Defence Forces" dispatched overseas, claiming their bigger military role abroad. This makes it plain that the Japanese reactionaries are going to accelerate the conversion of Japan into a military power and its nuclear armament and, at the same time, enter into a full-dress overseas aggression by thoroughly arming young and middle-aged people with the idea of reinvasion.

In fact, the Japanese reactionaries are trying to establish their domination over Korea and other Asian countries, reviving the old dream of "the greater East Asia coprosperity sphere."

If the Japanese reactionaries persistently step up overseas expansion, it may cause an irrevocable grave situation to Japan. Japan must be clearly mindful of this.

Textbook Lauding 'Crimes' Denounced

SK2203075693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0600 GMT 22 Mar 93

["Compilation of History Textbook Praising Japanese Imperialists' Crimes Must Not Be Allowed: NODONG SINMUN"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—The compilation of a history textbook lauding the crimes of the Japanese imperialists must not be allowed, urges NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Recalling that the supreme court of Japan recently passed a decision favoring the stand of the government authorities seeking the compilation of a history textbook lauding the "role" of Japan in World War II, the analyst says:

This is an open challenge to the Asian peoples and unbiased world opinion demanding that Japan honestly repent of and completely liquidate the indelible crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against mankind in the past.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of Japan to legalise the compilation of a history textbook praising the past crimes of Japan is a shameless embellishment of Japan's history of aggression and a criminal act fanning the revival of militarism and overseas aggression.

In this way, the Japanese reactionaries seek to instill militarism into the minds of Japanese youth and children and drive them into overseas aggression. In actuality education of such content is given at the educational institutions of Japan.

It must be noted that the ruling of the Japanese Supreme Court came at a time when the Japanese ruling circles were intensifying their moves for overseas expansion through the establishment of Japan's "leading role" in the international arena and its conversion into a political and military power.

Japan is now employing every conceivable means to realise its dream of "the Greater East Asia Coprosperity Sphere" which it failed to attain in the past.

DPRK, Thailand Sign Open Air Services Agreement

SK2203063493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0530 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—An agreement on opening air services was signed between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Thailand in Bangkok on March 18.

The agreement was signed by DPRK Ambassador to Thailand Yi To-sop on the Korean side and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri on the Thai side.

Kim Il-song Greets Iranian President on Islamic New Year

SK2103083193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 21 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings on March 20 to 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the Islamic new year.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will grow stronger and develop, President Kim Il-song in his messsage wished the president and people of Iran greater success in the work for the prosperity of the country.

Industry Responds to Kim Chong-il's Order

SK2003064893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—A vigorous drive for increased production is going on at industrial establishments across the country in hearty response to the order of comrade supreme commander of the Korean People's Army on effecting a great upsurge in production and construction with a rifle in one hand.

The workers of the Chollima steel complex are fulfilling their daily assignments for steel production at 120 percent by pressing ahead with production, keeping themselves in a strained and mobilized posture suited to the state of semi-war.

The Pyongbuk smeltery is overfulfilling its daily nonferrous metal production quotas by above ten percent, having set itself the goal of fulfiling its March plan ahead of the set time.

The Wiwon power station is turning out three million more kwh of electricity than the plan per hour by operating all generators at full capacity.

Locomotive corps across the country including the Wonsan and Chongju locomotive corps are vigorously carrying on the drive for hauling more goods in the same spirit and mettle as in the wartime transport.

The Songsan and Pungnyon ore mines, the Kyongsong mine prop production station and many other industrial establishments have already carried out their first quarterly assignments ahead of schedule in the heat of the drive for increased production.

Worker-Peasant Red Guards Resolve To Uphold Order

SK2103110193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Upholding the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] that declared a state of semi-war in the whole country, all of the people, the entire army, and the Worker-Peasant Red Guards in Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution, are stepping up combat and political training in a posture of full combat mobilization.

Whenever they encounter complicated situations and trials, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards in the capital have always stood in front to faithfully uphold the party's cause. At this time of a state of semi-war, they are confident that they are capable of defeating any strong enemy as long as they uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces. With that confidence, they further consolidate their staunch ideological readiness to defeat the aggressors.

The units of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards held general meetings of servicemen to thoroughly implement the KPA supreme commander's order. They resolved to firmly defend their work places and villages and deal a deadly blow to the aggressors in order to demonstrate again the dignity and honor of heroic Korea if the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets provoke a new war.

Religious Council Supports Kim Chong-il's Order

SK2003064593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 20 (KCNA)—An extraordinary enlarged meeting of the Korean Religionists Council took place in Pyongyang on March 18.

It discussed "On the Tasks of Religious Organisations as Regards the Statement of the DPRK Government."

Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Korean Religionists Council, made a report, which was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers referred to the tense situation created on the Korean peninsula owing to the reckless war moves of the United States and its followers and their attempt to force a "special inspection" on the DPRK and fully supported and approved the withdrawal of the DPRK from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), saying that it was a just measure to defend the dignity of the nation and the socialist system.

It adopted an appeal to international religious organisations and religious organizations of all countries.

The appeal said that the withdrawal of the DPRK from the NPT was a just self-defensive measure taken because it could no longer implement its obligations under the treaty and a decisive answer to the unjustifiable "pressure " of the United States and its followers.

"We can no longer allow our independent rights to be violated under unwarrantable 'pressure' and 'sanctions' within the framework of the NPT which lost its principle of impartiality and neutrality," the appeal said, and continued:

"It is a universal idea of mankind and an ideal of our religionists to realise social justice and peace and respect the dignity and independent rights of man.

"It is only too natural that our religionists whose ideal is love and truth, justice and peace do not yield to injustice and evil. How can we turn a blind eye to this abnormal reality in which injustice tramples on justice owing to the arbitrariness of big powers or can look with folded arms at the grim situation of the Korean peninsula under which the Korean nation may be exterminated and the whole mankind be plunged into a nuclear holocaust by the reckless war gamble of a nuclear power?

"We ardently call upon the international religious organisations and religious organizations of all countries to pay a due attention to the strained situation created in our country in keeping with its noble mission and take part in the righteous struggle to stop the 'Team Spirit' nuclear war exercises and get the 'resolution on special inspection' withdrawn.

"At the same time, we express the hope that they will actively support the statement of the DPRK Government declaring its withdrawal from the NPT and extend firm solidarity to the Korean people in their just struggle for the peace and reunification of the country."

KCNA Reviews 20 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK2003104193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 20 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addressed to president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of Tunisia on the occasion of the national day of Tunisia.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article about the one thousand-ri journey for learning from Badaogou to Mangyongdae covered by the great leader President Kim Il-song 70 years ago to know well about Korea.

The daily reports that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to heads of state of various countries in reply to their congratulatory messages on his birthday.

It also reports that the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent messages to foreign parties in reply to their messages of greetings on the occasion of the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It prints a solidarity message to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxism) denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres of the U.S. and South Korean authorities and the "special inspection" row of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

A brief history of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Chong-il was reported by the Sri Lankan paper DIWAYNA and the Cambodian SPK News Agency, according to the paper.

The paper informs the readers that mass meetings were held in different provinces to carry out the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

Papers carry a special writeup with articles and photos relating to Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army who was repatriated to the socialist motherland.

Under the headlines "Comrade Yi In-mo, the Incarnation of Faith and Will and the Hero of Reunification, Warmly Welcomed!", "Comrade Yi In-mo, a Proud Son of the Nation, a Phoenix, Returned Triumphantly", "We Will Staunchly Fight for the Party and the Leader, the Fatherland and the People like Comrade Yi In-mo," papers devote much space to photos and reports that over 300,000 citizens of the capital enthusiastically welcomed Yi In-mo upon his arrival in Pyongyang, that Yi In-mo arrived at the northern portion of Panmunjom, that Yi In-mo's family met with Kim Sang-won and his wife who had taken care of Yi in South Korea, and to reaction of people of all strata.

Dailies also convey news that Yi In-mo was warmly farewelled by South Korean fellow countrymen.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an editorial entitled "Let Us Advance in High Spirits with the Conviction of Certain Victory", and MINJU CHOSON an editorial "Let Us Defend Our Style Socialism With Unshakable Faith".

NODONG SINMUN in an article stresses that abuses of socialism are a product of the anti-socialist strategy of the imperialists.

Papers carry a statement of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea published in support of the statement of the DPRK Government announcing the withdrawal from the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty.

NODONG SINMUN reports that a central meeting of Koreans in Japan was held in Tokyo to support the statement of the DPRK Government, upholding the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, and MINJU CHOSON carries an account of an extraordinary enlarged meeting of the Religionists Council of Korea held in support of the statement of the

DPRK Government and an appeal to the international religious organisations and religious organisations of all countries adopted at the meeting.

Echoed in papers are voices of the world public denouncing the anti-DPRK campaign of the U.S. imperialists and the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises of the U.S. and South Korean authorities.

NODONG SINMUN carries an information of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the U.S. imperialists' scheme to leave their aggressive Armed Forces involved in the "Team Spirit 93" war game in South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary hits out at the U.S. scheme to strengthen the "U.S.-Japanese military alliance," and MINJU CHOSON denounces the Japanese reactionaries for trying to justify the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists during the second world war.

MINJU CHOSON dedicates a by-lined article to the 37th Tunisian national day.

South Korea

Initial Reaction to Yeltsin's Emergency Rule

SK2203000693 Seoul YONHAP in English 2348 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has expressed its support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin for his political and economic efforts to induce democracy and a free market system to his country. In an official statement, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday that South Korea hoped Yeltsin's reform efforts would continue with the Russian people's consent and support. The Russian Government's action to declare emergency rule was taken amid difficulties of a transitional period, the statement said, adding that it was up to the Russian people to decide whether to overcome the difficulties and bring back political stability.

'Official': Kim Chong-il To Take Over Military in Apr

SK2103024493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea's heir-apparent Kim Chong-il is likely to take over control of the military from his father next month in his steady ascent to the top, a Seoul official said Sunday. North Korean leader Kim Il-song who monopolizes top party, political and military posts is expected to hand over his chairmanship of the National Defense Committee to his son at the Supreme People's Assembly opening April 7, the official said.

"Kim Il-song apparently separated the National Defense Committee from the Central People's Committee in 1990 to give the military control to his son in a gradual transfer of power," he said. "We take note that North Korea praised Kim Chong-il as the greatest military leader of the era when it declared a semi-war state on March 8 and called on every soldier to unite around him, " said the official. The commission chairman holds the authority to declare a state of war and troop mobilization and to appoint minister is People's Armed Forces and other military leaders.

Reaction to DPRK Withdrawal From NPT Continues

'Source': DPRK Rejects U.S. Request

SK2003004293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0027 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 19 (YONHAP)—North Korea rejected a U.S. request to reconsider its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] at a meeting in Beijing on Friday, a diplomatic source said. Meanwhile, Joe Snyder, a State Department spokesman, told a regular briefing that the United States and North Korea held their 31st embassy counselor-level meeting in the Chinese capital on Friday afternoon at North Korean request. He said he could not discuss the content of the meeting or characterize the discussion. The meeting attracted unusual interest as it came only two days after the two countries had a similar contact in Beijing.

At Wednesday's [17 March] meeting, the United States expressed its concern over North Korea's decision to leave the NPT and urged Pyongyang to accept special inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The diplomatic source, who declined to be identified, said he understood that at Friday's meeting North Korea pointed out "the unjustifiability" of the U.S. request and said it had no intention of retracting its decision to withdraw from the NPT.

U.S.-DPRK Meetings Assessed

SK2003061693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0559 GMT 20 Mar 93

[YONHAP "News Analysis" by Pak Chong-chan: "U.S., North Korea Contacts in Beijing May Herald Things To Come"]

[Text] Washington, March 20 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea held working-level meetings in Beijing twice in three days amid mounting international concern over Pyongyang's announced decision to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Although U.S. officials tried to down play the meetings, held on Wednesday and Friday, they are nevertheless significant if only because they represented North Korea's only official contact with the outside world since its Stalinist regime made the decision to leave the NPT.

As the Beijing meetings were between such low-ranking diplomats as embassy counselors, it is more appropriate to describe them as contacts rather than conferences, but in the absence of formal ties, the contacts in the Chinese capital were an important channel for dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang. The two successive contacts, made within 48 hours of the North Korean announcement on the NPT, are therefore encouraging speculation by many analysts in Washington that the two countries are continuing their discussions in depth and trying to resolve the issue. This speculation is fueled by curt announcements on both sides that these meetings were part of regular contacts and that the U.S. side asked Pyongyang to reconsider its decision on the NPT in the first contact and that North Korea rejected the request in the second contact.

Despite the seemingly routine and casual way in which the last two contacts were announced, or rather because of it, a question arises. Why was the interval between the meetings so short? Many observers rule out the possibility that the two sides had substantial discussions in view of the ranks of the participants. What most likely took place in Beijing, they say, was that the embassy counselors simply read the positions of their governments to each other. In other words, there could not have been any more to them than the U.S. State Department spokesmen said there was.

To back this argument, one high-ranking foreign diplomat said that the United States would not "go over the head" of Japan and South Korea to deal directly with North Korea, keeping its allies in the dark. But since North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT has far-reaching political significance for the interests of both countries, they could have exchanged substantial remarks for the future of their relations, some analysts say. They say that this view makes much more sense since China, which holds a very important key to a possible solution, wished all along that North Korea and the United States would resolve their differences through dialogue.

If North Korea intends to use "the NPT card" for its political ends, however, it will have a long wait before reaching the crucial stage at which it can play the card with greatest effect. Therefore, the communist regime in North Korea would not have shown its hand at the Beijing meetings, diplomatic sources say. Viewed in this light, the meetings between Pyongyang and Washington were nothing more than what the State Department said. The United States would probably upgrade the level of the participants in the bilateral contact and hold it in a city other than Beijing if and when the time is ripe and North Korea is ready to negotiate the withdrawal of its decision to withdraw from the NPT for political or economic gain, sources say.

Official on PRC 'National Interest'

SK2103080293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (YONHAP)—China fully knows its national interest is in supporting nuclear-free Korean peninsula and has been cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for this purpose, Kong No-myong, Seoul's chief nuclear negotiator, said Sunday. "No matter how closed off North Korea is, it will still be struck hard and will wither to death if the U.N. Security Council impose economic sanctions with China's cooperation," he said in an interview show with the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS).

North Korea's decision to bolt the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was aimed at maximizing its political negotiating power, he said. "Inter-Korean dialogue will pick up swiftly at the end of North Korea's major political schedules such as the Supreme People's Assembly session opening April 7 and North Korean leader Kim Il-song's birthday celebration April 15," Kong, Seoul-side chairman of South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), said. "The government keeps in mind the option of reopening JNCC talks at an appropriate time to solve North Korea's nuclear problem," he said.

On Pyongyang's demands that South Korea and the United States permanently cancel their annual military exercise "Team Spirit" and that Washington guarantee it will not use nuclear weapons against North Korea, the chairman suggested these demands may be met. "As long as we are guaranteed transparent look into North Korea's nuclear program, there is a peaceful solution at hand," said Kong.

General belief is that North Korea may already have nuclear weapons since it could have produced 16 kg to 17 kg of weapons-grade plutonium so far and there are signs of detonation tests, according to the chairman. "But it is meaningless to ask now whether North Korea already has nuclear weapons. The key to solving the problem is securing transparency in looking into North Korea's nuclear program and setting up a regime to maintain this transparency," he said.

DPRK Said To Notify PRC in Advance

SK2103010693 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 21 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by correspondent Yi Chang-hu from Tokyo]

[Text] Japan's MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported on 20 March that North Korea had notified China in advance of its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and that China is the only country that had been notified.

'Official': PRC 'Optimistic' on DPRK Return

SK2203103093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1017 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 22 (YONHAP)—China is optimistic about North Korea's return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), a Chinese Government official said Monday. "We are positive that the issue of getting Pyongyang return to the NPT would be resolved satisfactorily through dialogue among the parties involved," he said.

The official who wanted to remain anonymous said China has been exerting positive efforts to keep the matter from growing worse. "I understand there is a progress in multi-pronged contacts being made behind the curtain among the relevant parties," he said. The United States and North Korea, he said, are likely to find a clue to the resolution of the issue in a way that would save their faces. The official added that the new South Korean Government's soft-line stand toward the issue has been a plus factor behind multi-channeled contacts with North Korea.

The Chinese official, however, made it express that China is opposed to the transfer of the issue to the U.N. Security Council. "If the Security Council tries to invoke economic sanctions against North Korea, we will have no choice but to exercise veto," he said.

IAEA: 'General' Inspection To Continue

SK2003071193 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 20 Mar 93 p 1

[By correspondent Paek Myong-pok from Vienna]

[Text] It is expected that the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] would sooner or later resume general inspections [ilbansachal] of North Korea, which have been suspended since North Korea declared that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

During an exclusive interview with CHUNGANG ILBO on 19 March, IAEA Spokesman David Kyd said: "North Korea has strongly opposed special inspections [tukpyolsachal] of the two unreported facilities. However, this will not hinder inspections of North Korea's reported facilities."

He also said: "The IAEA has already informed North Korea that it would send an inspection team to North Korea before the end of this month. The IAEA hopes to send the team to Pyongyang as early as 22 March."

He also said: "The dispatch of the inspection team is intended to promote a favorable environment for the special IAEA Board of Governors meeting scheduled for 31 March."

He also said: "There is a more than 50 percent possibility that the 31 March special Board of Governors meeting will decide to present the North Korean nuclear issue to the UN Security Council."

He went on to say: "The North Korean issue will be reported to the UN Security Council before 10 April, at the latest."

DPRK May Lift Restrictions

SK2003031993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea may end the restrictions associated with its declaration of a state of "semi-war" at the end of the month. North Korea has recently informed embassies in Pyongyang that it will lift some of the restrictions imposed since semi-war was declared on Feb. 9, according to a reliable source with ties to foreign diplomats well versed in North Korean affairs.

Restrictions to be lifted may include an entry ban, a ban on diplomats traveling outside Pyongyang and a ban on contact with North Koreans, the source said. He didn't know if this meant the end of the semi-war state, announced in response to the annual South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit."

Western diplomats here said, however, that they would see any such move as a conciliatory gesture that corresponded to the end of the drill. North Korea might resume negotiations with the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency on nuclear issues early next month, they predicted.

Miyazawa: Sanctions 'Not Desirable'

SK1903131193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1208 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 (YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed the view on Friday that it is not desirable to take economic sanctions against North Korea forthwith in connection with Pyongyang's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). Testifying at the upper house's Budget Committee, Miyazawa said, "it is hard to understand what benefit North Korea would have by withdrawing from the NPT. It is a matter of great regret, but it is important to give them an opportunity to think the matter over."

Also at the meeting, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said his government would urge North Korea to reconsider their withdrawal from the NPT. "We must use every opportunity in letting North Korea know that giving nuclear suspicion to the international community cannot be of any help to themselves," the foreign minister said.

ROK Reaction to DPRK Nuclear Withdrawal Decision

JNCC Head: DPRK To Accept IAEA 'Eventually'

SK2103145293 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee Chairman Kong No-myong revealed he thinks that North Korea has produced 16 to 17 kg of plutonium which is enough to manufacture two nuclear bombs. He added that North Korea entered a stage of experimenting with a detonator. In the Korean Broadcasting System television program "Our Problems," Chairman Kong No-myong said North Korea knows well that it will invite self-destruction if it develops nuclear weapons as a tool for nuclear threat or political pressure. Therefore, it will eventually revoke its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and accept nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Minister To Propose Countering DPRK

SK2203033393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—The Seoul government will explain its plans for countering North Korea's nuclear problems and outline its position to the United States and Japan during visits by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu from Tuesday [22 March]. "One may think that there is a difference in perspectives in looking at North Korea's nuclear controversy," Han told reporters on Monday.

"For Washington, the problem is something some 12,000 miles (19,000 kilometers) away and more of a global issue raised by North Korea's challenge of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)," he said. "For South Korea, which is within striking range of North Korean missiles, the priority is peace and security. "But it is South Korea that has thought out the most on this issue and has the most reasonable countermeasures. We have the right to decide," he said.

The foreign minister leaves Tuesday for a 10-day trip to the United Nations, Washington and Tokyo. His visit was pushed up after North Korea's announcement March 12 of its withdrawal from the NPT. The world community could not disregard the possibility that North Korea's pullout from the treaty was intended to earn it time to develop a nuclear weapon, he said.

"We have to consider this possibility seriously," Han told the reporters. "Our immediate goal is blocking Pyongyang's nuclear arms development. Even if there are negotiations with North Korea, Pyongyang's compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections cannot become a barganing chip for exchange with something else."

Seoul will continue its "two-track" approach to solving the North Korean nuclear problem, one between South and North Korea and the other through international organizations such as the IAEA and the U.N. Security Council. "We have to exhaust all possible actions at the IAEA. This is necessary to justify taking the issue to the United Nations. This will also give China a reason to more actively exert influence on North Korea," Han said.

Position on Withdrawal Examined

SK1903030693 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 17 Mar 93 p 5

[Article by correspondent Kim Chin-kuk: "Efforts Will Be Made To Resolve the North Korean Nuclear Issue Through Dialogue—ROK Government's Position on North Korea's Withdrawal From the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty"]

[Text] A sense of utmost horror that has prevailed on the Korean peninsula since North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], has eased to a certain extent.

North Korea has said loudly that there is a "state of semi-war." However, President Kim Yong-sam noted that North Korea has been on alert just like it used to be during the previous Team Spirit exercises and has not shown any sign of provoking war. Also, ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu told the National Assembly that our government's position is that it will ask the UN Security Council not to impose military sanctions against North Korea even if the North Korean issue is presented to the Security Council. Furthermore, North Korea has continued contacts with South Korean businessmen and signaled that the North and South would discuss the nuclear issue.

The ROK Government's basic position is to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue through international agencies. The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is the first among those agencies. The first issue the IAEA can raise with North Korea is its withdrawal from the NPT. India, Pakistan, Brazil, and Argentina, among the 35 member nations of the IAEA Board of Governors, have still not signed the NPT, so the IAEA's pressure on North Korea has its limits.

Another option is to take punitive action if North Korea passes the deadline that the 25 February IAEA Board of Governors meeting set for special inspections. The IAEA Board of Governors is likely to opt for this approach. February has only 28 days, and Muslims' Ramadan will be over on 22 March. Therefore, the IAEA considers the actual deadline to be sometime in late March. At that time, the IAEA will call a special Board of Governors meeting and decide to present the North Korean issue to the UN Security Council.

The UN Security Council will then handle this issue in early April. Anticipating this possibility, the permanent members of the UN Security Council and other countries concerned have already been contacting each other and actively exchanging views.

The UN Security Council is likely to use the entire three-month period when North Korea will remain as a NPT signatory. Thus, it is likely to slowly but vigorously undertake the courses of requests for special inspections, warnings, and economic sanctions. Only when the UN

Security Council goes through all the procedures can it justifiably use its final card.

China is the most important factor in the UN Security Council's handling of the North Korean issue. This is because China has veto power and has a different view from that of other permanent members of the Security Council. China supplies crude oil and grain to North Korea. Therefore, if economic sanctions are imposed, China's participation is vital to their success.

The ROK Government has directly contacted China in Beijing, Seoul, and the United Nations and exchanged views. ROK Foreign Minister Han will meet Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Li Zhaoxing when he visits the United Nations late this month. He will also meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in late April during a meeting of the Economic and Social Commission in Asia and the Pacific. Foreign Minister Qian will visit the ROK in late May or early June, approximately a month before the three-month period has ended. His visit may be critical. China has made clear its support for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Right before North Korea withdrew from the NPT, China told North Korea that if North Korea does not receive special inspections by 25 March, the issue would be presented to the UN Security Council and that it would then be difficult for China to protect North Korea. Nevertheless, North Korea withdrew from the NPT without a prior consultation with China. This has embarrassed China.

China has told the ROK all along that North Korea would not develop nuclear weapons. In this way, China has supported North Korea's position.

China has also told the ROK that the United States and ROK had excessively driven North Korea into a corner by resuming the Team Spirit exercise and isolating North Korea in the international community. China reportedly told the ROK: "It is not us but the ROK that holds the key." It also reportedly said: "After having driven North Korea to a corner that way, what do you expect us to tell North Korea?"

China told the ROK that North Korea firmly believes that U.S.- provided intelligence information had prompted requests for opening up the unreported facilities and that North Korea considers this to be the first step toward tightening the noose on North Korea and that the nuclear controversy will eventually be followed by controversies over chemical weapons and human rights.

Prompted by China's demand for concessions, our government appears to be examining a very conciliatory approach.

The United Nations may also be examining a similar approach. China's opinion will be an important factor in behind-the-scenes negotiations between the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and North Korea. Therefore, our government has left the door open for solution by not revoking its decision to repatriate Mr. Yi In-mo to North Korea. Our government has reportedly been examining the preconditions that North Korea presented for negotiations, including the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise.

As the United States is a party concerned in those preconditions, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu will discuss them when he visits the United States later this month.

A tense atmosphere prevailed in the United States at first. However, it is now calmly watching the development of the situation, probably with China's position in mind. China may be able to play an arbitrary role in the future. Solutions may be found through international agencies and direct dialogue between the United States and North Korea.

The Association of Korean Residents in Japan and other pro-North Korean organizations overseas and South Korean university student organizations that have close ties with North Korean university students have stressed a need for the parties directly concerned to resolve the nuclear issue by holding Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings and other North-South meetings.

This is interpreted as a sign that North Korea, which failed to resolve the nuclear issue through international agencies, anticipates dialogue with South Korean authorities who are relatively progressive cabinet ministers.

Inter-Korean Trade Continues

SK2003123193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—Inter-Korean trade exchanges are running smooth despite North Korea's announcement of withdrawl from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) on March 12 and state of semi-war, trading house sources here said Saturday. Shipments are on schedule as Pyongyang allows in freighters of South Korean companies for goods exchanges despite its announcement to bolt away from the global nuclear control treaty, the sources said.

A ship for Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. that entered Chongjin, northeastern port, on March 12 had no difficulty in loading steel products from the country and arrived in southeastern port of Pohang in South Korea on Saturday. Daewoo Corp., which brings in zinc ingot from North Korea every month, will send a ship to to the North next week to import 2,000 tons as initially planned. Samsung Co. will also go ahead with its plan to buy North Korean goods within this month. Pyongyang does not wish to stop trade relations with South Korean businesses despite its NPT withdrawl and continue to draw up contracts for exchanges with them through dealers of third countries, sources said.

Unification Board: Reports on DPRK Sales 'Groundless'

SK2103110393 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 20 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Foreign press reported that the ROK Government is investigating reports that some ROK business groups have been secretly selling oil and rice to North Korea. The National Unification Board said on 20 March that these reports are groundless.

Yi In-mo's Repatriation Reflects 'Positive' Policy

SK2003045793 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Mar 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Repatriation of Yi In-mo"]

[Text] Amid the mounting tension created by North Korea's abrupt withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), the Seoul government yesterday returned to North Korea Yi In-mo, the 76-year-old former Communist partisan. Yi was captured while engaged in guerrilla activities during the height of the Korean War and served seven years in prison, after which he was imprisoned again on charges of having spied for Pyongyang for years.

The repatriation is indeed a reflection of President Kim Yong-sam's positive, forward-looking rapprochement policy toward North Korea in an effort to break through the now-deadlocked inter-Korean relations. It mirrors his conviction that humanitarian affairs should be accorded high priority in future endeavors for inter-Korean reconciliation.

In this regard, we would like to recall that Pyongyang, which had long demanded Yi's return, indicated on more than one occasion it would accept the Seoul proposition for regular visits by separated family members only if South Korea repatriated the ailing ex-convict Yi who had spent more than 30 years in prison for refusing to renounce his allegiance to Communist North Korea, which constitutes an anti-state crime in the South.

Yi's repatriation will hopefully lead Pyongyang to reconsider its absurd recalcitrance in order to restart the presently stalemated inter-Korean relations owing to its preposterous protest against the Team Spirit Korea-U.S. joint military exercise and its ensuing pullout from the NPT. North Korea may be tempted to use his return in a publicity gimmick, claiming it as a triumph for the Pyongyang regime, but such a propaganda stunt will prove merely counterproductive in the future course of inter-Korean relations.

It is our ardent hope that Yi's return will prompt a major stride forward toward realizing the humanitarian goal of family reunion between the South and the North. In spite of the much-strained inter-Korean relationship touched off by North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT, we once again urge Pyongyang to take on a truly sincere attitude toward allowing aged people especially to meet their displaced family members.

ROK Defector Leads DPRK Nuclear Development

SK1903130993 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 18 Mar 93 p 23

[By correspondent Yi Yong-su]

[Text] North Korea amplified suspicions over its nuclear development by finally declaring on 12 March that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. North Korea had continuously refused the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] inspections, which all NPT member countries are obligated to accept, and finally decided to withdraw from the treaty. On this occasion, let us examine the history of North Korea's nuclear development and by whom the development is being led.

Since Kim Il-song hastily started nuclear development right after the Korean war took place in 1950, North Korea's nuclear development is thought to have reached a considerably high level by now. Its nuclear research has been orchestrated by South Koreans who went to the North during the Korean War, including Yi Sung-ki, then Dean of the Engineering Collage of Seoul National University. Professors Yo Kyong-ku (Yo Un-hyong's nephew), Ma Hyong-ok, Yi Se-hun, Kim Tae-yol, Yi Chang-sik, and Sin Hyon-sok went to the North with Dr. Yi Sung-ki in 1950.

Dr. Yi is the originator of North Korea's nuclear development. According to North Korean materials revealed by Reverend Kim Yong-hun who is adviser to the Association of Korean Separated Families in Washington, Dr. Yi has played the role of steersman in North Korea's development of atomic energy technology since he became director of the Atomic Energy Institute in 1967. He was vice director of the Hamhung Academy of Sciences for 32 years after he went to the North. Among many books Dr. Yi wrote while he was vice director of the academy, "Chemical Dictionary 4" published in 1972 contains details of atomic reactor tests and its reactions, showing advanced developments in North Korea's nuclear technology. Dr. Yi was engaged in an intensive study on atomic energy at the Hungnam Fertilizer Plant, the former site of of Japan's secret development of atomic bombs, until he was named first director of the Atomic Energy Institute in 1967.

Analysts say that North Korea established the Atomic Energy Institute for the purpose of technological development of practical atomic energy, not just simple research. As a doctor of engineering, Dr. Yi is interested in practical research rather than theoretical studies. Research technique in his field of expertise, textile engineering, are chemical engineering techniques which enable nuclear waste reprocessing facilities to be built. Many analysts feel that he was almost finished with his practical research while vice director of the Hamhung Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Yi, who is now working for North Korea as the highest authority on nuclear development, studied chemical engineering at Japan's Kyoto University. After graduating, he worked at the Chemical Research Institute of the same university, where he became a world-famous scientist as he developed vinalon, which is more durable and sturdy than nylon. He returned home from Japan in 1945 and became the dean of the Engineering College of Seoul National University.

Dr. Yi installed facilities to produce vinalon—synthetic fiber made of coal coke—in North Korea in 1961, thus contributing to solving North Korea's textile problems. Because of this, he became a labor hero. Besides, he exercises great political influence because he has contiunuously been reelected as delegate of the Supreme People's Assembly since he was first elected in 1957. Especially, he is so beloved by Kim Il-song as to have received a personal letter and wild ginseng from him when he was ill.

Foreign Minister To Focus on DPRK, U.S. Trade

SK2203082993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0611 GMT 22 Mar 93

["News analysis" by Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu visits the United States and Japan from Tuesday [23 March] as South Korea and its allies are put to the test by North Korea's nuclear flare-up. Seoul pushed up Han's visit by a few weeks after Pyongyang announced March 12 that it was withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The foreign minister has a lot of ground to cover, especially as this will be the first meeting between the new South Korean and U.S. Administrations.

In the United States, Han will propose a Korea-U.S. summit before the G-7 summit in Tokyo in July. He and U.S. officials will discuss changing the U.S. security role in the Asia-Pacific region and the status of the American troop presence on the Korean peninsula. There is also mounting trade friction, ranging from the Uruguay Round to bilateral issues such as finance market opening and intellectual property rights.

In Japan, the foreign minister will focus on resolving the "unhappy past" between Seoul and Tokyo and call on Japanese leaders to show political will in solving the problems of wartime compensation and an unimproving trade imbalance. But no single item on his agenda will surpass the flaring North Korean nuclear controversy.

Han said on the eve of his departure that Seoul had prepared a set of countermeasures against North Korea's nuclear problem and that he would explain them to Washington and Tokyo. Han will go to New York for consultations with the U.N. Security Council, which is likely to take over the issue if North Korea does not comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) March 31 deadline for opening suspected nuclear facilities. He will be in Washington to prepare scenarios, compare options and coordinate joint measures as the IAEA readies to reopen its special Board of Governors' session March 31 and will visit Japan as the inspection deadline passes.

North Korea put all three countries, and virtually the entire global community, to the test by renouncing the NPT. The announcement turned back the clock to before North Korea submitted itself to IAEA inspections, but the situation is much worse now as suspicion against Pyongyang's nuclear capability is at a peak.

The initial shock subsided considerably when North Korean ambassadors abroad dropped inviting remarks that Pyongyang might, if its conditions were met, return to the NPT. Seoul's consultations with Washington and Tokyo are critical because it is these two countries that can fulfill Pyongyang's demands, chiefly for an improvement in relations.

The current impasse is tilting in North Korea's favor. North Korea's NPT withdrawal becomes final after three months, in June. In other words, Pyongyang can wait until June 12 and sit out South Korea, Japan and the United States to make them initiate conciliatory gestures with carrots in hand.

Already there are such signs. Washington reopened its couselor-level contacts with Pyongyang in Beijing after a nearly three-month hiatus. The contacts, usually held every month or so, broke off indefinitely last December. Last week, Washington accosted Pyongyang for the Beijing contact and they met again just two days later for further talks.

At the same time, Seoul and Washington will have to compromise on their perspective of the nuclear problem. As Han said, for the United States the problem is more of a global issue, a direct challenge to its policy of nuclear nonproliferation, and thus warrants strong action.

For South Korea, it is a source of immediate threat and it's interest is to guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula. Seoul officials worry that as North Korea's nuclear controversy escalates from an inter-Korean problem into a world issue, the danger will increase.

How South Korea, Japan and the United States will deal with North Korea's nuclear card is the key element in resolving the impasse. Foreign Minister Han will have to make sure during his trip that the United States and Japan fully consider and reflect Seoul's position in their moves toward North Korea.

Trade Representative Assesses U.S. Talks

SK2003023793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States on Friday [19 March] wound up four days of working-level talks on pending trade issues, including on ways to protect intellectual property rights. In the talks, Robert Cassidy, deputy U.S. Trade Representative, claimed that U.S. industry had lost some 400 million U.S. dollars by Korean infringement of their intellectual property rights. Cassidy then demanded that the Korean Government try and establish a strong law-enforcement apparatus to stop Korean manufacturers from making and exporting imitation products, and stop unauthorized copying of American musical discs, videotapes and computer software. The United States also asked Korea to relax restrictions on making foreign programs for a proposed cable television network.

Chief Korean delegate Hong Chong-pyo, director general of the Foreign Ministry's International Trade Bureau, told reporters that Korea expressed concern over proliferating moves by U.S. companies to lodge dumping charges against Korean products and over a protectionist tendency. Hong said that Korea had pointed out that the government has deployed more than 500 investigators and introduced strong measures against the infringement of intellectual property rights and asked the U.S. Government to exclude Korea from a list of countries to be designated prime violators. If a country is so designated it will be forced to enter into six or nine months of negotiations with the United States. And if the negotiations fail, the U.S. Government imposes 100-percent tariffs on products suspected of being copies.

The U.S. side also brought up its demand for opening the market to imported rice, but the Seoul government repeated its position against it. Korea asked the United States to recognize the records of construction in third countries and allow Korean construction companies to take part in building projects in the United States with American companies. It also asked U.S. authorities to allow entrance into the United States by Korean construction engineers.

The Korean side also urged the United States to undertake fair and judicious investigations of dumping complaints against Korean steel imports, after pointing out the unfairness of preliminary dumping charges against them. In addition, Seoul asked the U.S. Government to release Korea from the foot and mouth disease area so that it could export beef to the United States. The United States promised to finish a study of the papers submitted by Korea on the matter.

Korea and the United States are expected to convene what is called a meeting of the Presidents' Economic Initiative (PEI) in Seoul in mid-April to discuss ways to improve existing systems that are seen as impediments to bilateral trade. The discussions will be held in four main fields, investments, industrial standards, technology and customs clearance, Korean Foreign Ministry officials said.

'Buy-American' Drive Benefits Auto Parts Firms

SK2003072293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—South Korean manufacturers of automobile parts have increased their OEM (original equipment manufacturing) sales to the United States as result of a buy-American campaign. President Bill Clinton is emphasizing buy American so the American public is shopping for cars made at home, which has boosted Korean exports of automobile parts, industry sources said Saturday [20 March]. But the demand from Britain and Germany is off because of economic slowdowns there.

Daewoo Automotive Components Ltd., which supplies compressors and alternators to General Motors, has raised its export target for 1993 to 50.8 billion won from 45 billion won because GM has increased its orders. Korea Auto Parts Co., which sells water and oil pumps to Ford, has hiked its target to 19.2 billion won from 17.6 billion won because of rising order.

Last year and early this year demand for water pumps was 60,000-65,000 a month, but now is more than 70,000 a month. The Korea Auto Industries Cooperative Association says it expects OEM export to reach 190 million U.S. dollars this year, up 15.9 percent over 1992.

Koreans Return to Seoul From Sakhalin Island

SK2003101493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0957 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—Forty-two Koreans who had lived on Sakhalin Island since World War II returned to Korea Saturday. The Koreans, who were forcibly taken to the island by the Japanese as laborers, have no relatives on Sakhalin and are over 65 years old. The return was arranged by the Korean National Red Cross.

They are to spend their first night in Seoul for a welcome home ceremony and then go to live in the "House of Love" near Chunchon, Kangwon Province. They are the second group of such Koreans from Sakhalin to be permitted home since 77 returned in a similar way last year.

Share of Japan's Imports Decreases

SK2203022793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—The import market share of South Korean goods in Japan has fallen below 5 percent for the first time since 1988 as exports have decreased compared with rivals such as China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, the Trade, Industry, and Resources Ministry said Monday [22 March]. The ministry quoted a report on January-February trade by the Japanese Finance Ministry as saying that Korean exports to Japan totaled 1.61 billion U.S. dollars during the period, down 13.5 percent from the same two months a year earlier. The Korean portion was 4.4 percent of Japan's 36.29 billion dollars of imports during the period, down from 6.3. percent in 1988.

China saw an increase during the period as its exports rose to 2.61 billion dollars and 7.2 percent of Japan's import market. China trailed Korea in market share until 1989 with 5.3 percent, but overtook it in 1990.

Ho Chi Minh City Job Training Center To Open

SK2203090793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0811 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—A vocational training center for children of Korean fathers and Vietnamese mothers is to open in August in Ho Chi Minh city under the joint sponsorship of the South Korean and Vietnamese governments, the Labor Ministry said Monday. The ministry had decided to invite 25 Vietnamese vocational instructors for job training from April 6 through July 5, a ministry spokesman said.

Three Korean teachers in such fields as computers and car repair would be sent to the socialist country when the center opened in August, he said. Classes are expected to begin in September. Dispatch of an adviser for comprehensive training programs and methods was also under consideration, he said. The aim of the center is to nurture more than 1,000 children a year. Seoul, which has been helping in the erection of the center, plans to provide 3 million U.S. dollars of material assistance over the next 10 years. Vietnam is believed to have between 7,000 and 15,000 children aged from 16 to 26 who were fathered by Korean soldiers during the Vietnam war.

YONHAP Details Kim's 100-Day Economic Plan

SK2203081593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Official interest rates, including the Bank of Korea's rediscount rates, will be lowered between 0.5 percentage points and 1 percentage point within the month, the second such cut since Jan. 26, to stimulate the economy out of recession. To expedite capital investment, commercial banks will be allowed to make loans out of a foreign currency-denominated fund of 1 trillion won (1.26 billion U.S. dollars) set aside for industries to purchase domestic equipment and machinery. At present, only state-run banks, such as the Korea Development Bank and the Industrial Bank of Korea, are allowed to make loans from the fund.

In addition, won-denominated funds for capital investment will be increased by 570 billion won to 9.74 trillion won this year. These are the highlights of the 100-day plan for a new economy unveiled by Economic Planning Minister Yi Kyong-sik at a meeting of 230 government and business leaders presided over by President Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae on Monday afternoon.

Other salient points of the plan are:

—The 300 million-dollar ceiling on the 30 largest business groups' debt floatation overseas will be upped to 400 million dollars.
—Usance for bills for raw materials imported for use in manufacturing exports will be extended from 90 days to 120 days, while the Export-Import Bank of Korea will increase the fund to support deferred-payment exports from 2 billion dollars to 3 billion dollars this year.
—The securities market will increase the supply of funds to listed manufacturing companies, through rights and bond issues, from 15 trillion won to 20 trillion won.
—The government will appropriate, during the first half of the year, up to 60 percent of the funds earmarked for projects this year to ensure a smoother flow to industry.
—Commercial banks will lift bill discount ceilings for small businesses, while extending the redemption period of discounted bills from 90 days to 120 days for six months ending September. Trade loans to small exporters will be raised from 650 won per dollar on export letters of credit to 700 won.
—The temporary investment tax credit system, whereby a company making capital investment is allowed to set off 7 percent to 10 percent of the cost of investment against taxable profit, will be extended to the end of the year from the original deadline of June 30.
—All public utility charges will be frozen at their present levels by the end of the year.

Kim Orders End to Trademark Forgery

SK2203033893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0216 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam instructed Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui to stamp out forgery of trademarks Monday, noting that this practise not only caused trade friction with the United States but harmed the international image of Korean products. President Kim made the instructions after Minister Kim briefed him on the Justice Ministry's programs for this year.

The chief executive gave the minister three major policy goals—eradication of corruption, strict enforcement of law and order and reforms of legal administration—for the ministry this year and stressed the need for society to get rid of negative thoughts and behavior, such as being easy-going, lazy and wasteful. The anti-corruption war should not be limited to combatting bribery, he added.

Reform should serve the people's interests, which required the enforcement of law and order on the basis of a national consensus and strict punishment of people who broke the law or caused confusion, the president said. Law enforcement agencies should make an all-out effort to fight anti-social crimes, such as organized violence, Kim said.

Kim Orders Unified Asset Appraisal Approach

SK2203090493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam instructed his top aide Monday to unify the method of appraising assets to be disclosed by high-ranking government officials and lawmakers. Kim's order to chief presidential secretary Pak Kwan-yong came amid mounting public criticism that the assets disclosed by minister-level officials and ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] lawmakers were appraised differently with some of their real state holdings appearing to be far below their market value.

"On the whole, the reports of personal assets filed so far appear to be faithful and honest," Kim said. But the reports were, nevertheless, becoming the subject of public suspicion and scorn as the methods of appraisal seemed to differ from case to case, Kim noted. Therefore, he told Pak, the administration should revise or strengthen the law governing ethics of civil servants so that their personal assets could be assessed more accurately and reported to the public more correctly, according to Yi Kyong-chae, presidential spokesman.

In more specific terms, Kim said that future disclosures of personal assets by government officials from vice ministers on down should be made through the Government Administration Ministry, which could in turn ask an authoritative appraiser for a uniform assessment of individual property values.

Kim also instructed Pak to check once more to see if some real estate holdings were omitted from the personal assets disclosed by high government officials and lawmakers, Yi said. Upon receiving the president's instructions, the Government Administration Ministry said it would ask the Korea Appraisal Board (KAB) to give a uniform and fair appraisal on some 120 vice ministers and similar ranking government officials who have been asked by Kim to disclose their assets. As a result, their disclosures, scheduled to be made March 26, were expected to be delayed, ministry officials said.

In a related development, the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] accused ruling party lawmakers of deceit in disclosing their assets. The Democratic Party asked the Democratic Liberal Party to legislate a law governing such asset disclosures or provide a system so that it could ask its members to make their personal property and movable assets public. The DP urged DLP lawmakers to disclose their assets after that. The DLP, meanwhile, decided to discuss with the opposition party legislation of a system in which public officials would be required to register their personal assets and make them public.

Dissident Group Declares Support for Kim Yong-sam

SK2203005993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0030 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—An umbrella dissident organization declared its support for the Kim Yong-sam government and promised not to make any attempt to overthrow it in a deputies rally at Kyonghee University on Sunday. Chonkukyonhap (the National Coalition for Democracy and National Reunification) would not hold large demonstrations or gatherings, but would put its energies into civic movements, a statement said. "We will watch carefully that the government reform measures are substantially beneficial to the people," it said.

Chonkukyonhap called for use of real names in financial deals, opposition to wage control and agricultural imports, introduction of local autonomy, and struggle for a self-reliant reunification of Korea. Chonkukyonhap's permanent chairman is Kwon Chong-tae and it has four ordinary co-chairmen—Ko Kwang-sok, Yun Yong-kyu, Han Sang-nyul and Chi Son, a Buddhist monk—in office until July.

22 Mar Foreign Ministry Appointments Reported

SK2203035193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0318 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Pak Chang-il, a researcher in the International Economic Studies Division of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), was appointed deputy chief of protocol on Monday in a Foreign Ministry reshuffle. Sin Tong-nyon, an IFANS researcher in Western European, African and Middle Eastern studies, moves over to the ministry as deputy director-general of the Cultural Affairs Bureau. Chong Yong-cho, a former minister to Yugoslavia, was picked as deputy director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau. The ministry picked Kim Kwang-tong as director-general for International Trade and Choe Chong-il, director of the International Legal Affairs Division, as assistant to the foreign minister.

Government To Close 'Some 10 Small-Sized Embassies'

SK2103012893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] The government plans to close some 10 small-sized embassies with a few diplomats each, mainly in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. The program was contained in a New Year's policy report briefed to President Kim Yong-sam by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu last Tuesday, sources at the ministry said yesterday. Details will be drawn up after close analysis of substantive benefits in the operation of embassies, the sources said.

A ministry official said, "In fact, there were embassies that opened just to cope with North Korea's diplomatic thrust before the entry to the United Nations. But there is no need for diplomatic confrontation with Pyongyang like the Cold War era because both sides became U.N. members." Diplomats will also be relocated according to new needs of diplomacy. In particular, more economic and trade experts will be assigned to embassies in the United States, Japan, Germany and China which have growing economic exchanges with Korea, he added.

The government is also considering recruiting trade experts as diplomats to strengthen economy-related diplomacy. The appointment of former trade-industry minister Han Sung-su as ambassador to Washington and former lawmaker Hwang Pyong-tae to Beijing is an example. The government will overhaul the system under which other ministries send their officials as resident diplomats to embassies overseas as the system costs too much in comparison with substantive gains. Now, some 20 agencies, including the Agency for National Security Planning and the Economic Planning Board, have stationed their officials in the embassies of leading nations under the pretext of collecting information.

At present, the Foreign Ministry has sent 804 diplomats to 140 overseas missions—99 embassies, 37 consulates-general and four representative offices to world bodies. But other government agencies have dispatched a total of 480 officials to overseas missions, accounting for more 40 percent of formal diplomats, causing turf frictions. Consulates-general, on the other hand, will soon open in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhow in China, as well as in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in Vietnam to help Korean businessmen and ethnic Korean residents. Meanwhile, the government closed six embassies last year—those in Haiti, Liberia, Somalia, Malawi, Mauritius and Sierra Leone.

DLP Lawmakers Reveal Personal Assets

SK2203043693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0339 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Following in the footsteps of cabinet ministers, ruling party Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil and the top three party post-holders, 161 members of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] unveiled their assets Monday. The unprecendented disclosure of assets is expected to be matched by the major opposition Democratic Party (DP). The assets of 153 lawmakers and nine executive (party affairs) committee members having no National Assembly seats and their families averaged 2,548 million won (3.2 million U.S. dollars).

Wealthiest was Rep. Kim Chin-chae (Kumjong, Pusan), a company owner whose total assets, including real estate and stocks, were given as 27.74 billion won (35 million dollars). Rep. Kim Tong-kwon (Uisong, North Kyongsang Province) owns several companies and listed his assets at 20.81 billion won and Rep. Kim Mun-ki (Myongju and Yangyang, Kangwon Province), who runs a school foundation, revealed assets of 18.51 billion won. Rep. Choe Ton-ung (Kangnung, Kangwon), president of Kyongwol Soju Co., had assets worth 16.76 billion won, and Rep. Yi Song-mu (Mungkyong and Chomchon, North Kyongsang), who is connected to the Bongmyung group, had 13.44 billion won.

Other lawmakers with assets of more than 10 billion won were Rep. Chong Chae-mun (Pusanjin-a, Pusan) with 12.96 billion won thanks to large inheritance from his father, Inchon Rep. Cho Chin-hyong with 12.44 billion won, and Rep. Song Tu-ho (Kangso, Pusan) with 12.35 billion won, including a hospital. Those with assets above 5 billion were Rep. No Chae-pong from the national constituency (7.89 billion won, including his father's large real estate holdings), Suwon, Kyonggi Province, Rep. Kim In-yong (6.62 billion won), and Rep. Yi Myong-pak of the national constituency, a former chairman of the Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. (6.23 billion won).

The list is followed by Reps. Pak Kyu-sik of southern Puchon, Kyonggi (6.2 billion won), Yi Hyon-su of the national constituency (5.76 billion won), Yu Hak-song of Yechon, North Kyongsang (5.8 billion won), Kim Kwang-su of the national constituency (5.51 billion won), and Kim Un-hwan of Haeundae, Pusan (5.38 billion won). House speaker Rep. Pak Chun-kyu of Taegu listed assets of 4.18 billion won and former Speaker Rep. Kim Chae-son (Hwachon and Cholwon, Kangwon) revealed assets of 4.61 billion won. Rep. Kum Chin-ho (Yongju and Yongpung, North Kyongsang) had assets of 3.81 billion won and Rep. Chong Sok-mo (national constituency) listed his wealth at 3.26 billion won.

Lawmakers who have served in the government revealed assets of above 2.4 billion won—Rep. Chong Tong-ho (Uiryong and Haman, South Kyongsang Province), a former chief of the presidential security service, 2.88 billion won; Rep. Yi Song-yun (northern Inchon), a former vice prime minister, 2.86 billion won; Rep. Chong Sang-chun (Central Pusan), a former Seoul mayor, 2.84 billion won; Rep. Yi Won-chae (National Constituency), 2.66 billion won; Chong Ho-yong (western Taegu), 2.57 billion won; Na Ung-pae (Yongdeungpo, Seoul), 2.55 billion won, Choe Pyong-yul (national constituency), 2.54 billion won, and Kim Yun-hwan (Kunwi and Sonsan, North Kyonsang), 2.42 billion won. In contrast, Rep. Kim Ho-il (Masan, South Kyongsang) listed assets of just 13 million won, other lawmakers with relatively small amounts were Reps. Pak Kyong-su (Wonju and Hoensong, Kangwon) with 60 million won, Yu Song-kyu (Taebaek, Kangwon) with 180 million won, Kang Sam-chae (Masan, South Kyongsang) with 230 million won, Yi Kang-tu (Kochang, South Kyongsang) with 250 million won, Kang Son-yong (national constituency) with 260 billion won, and So Chung-won (Tongjak-a, Seoul) with 270 million won.

Like the ministers before them, the DLP members are under fire for deliberately undervaluing their assets. While most of them listed real estate, missing were paintings, antiques, and other movables that are hard to trace, diluting the actual meaning and purpose of the disclosure, observers say. Many of those with government and military backgrounds are suspected of speculation as it is unclear how they came about their land.

DLP Reduces Staff Size by Nearly 50 Percent

SK2103013393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party yesterday fired 799, or almost half of its 1,720 employees, in a move to reduce its organization and budget. The measure will save the party over 1.2 billion won ($1.5 million) a month, according to a party spokesman. The harsh step for the DLP employees came following President Kim Yong-sam's recent announcement that he would not give subsidies to the ruling party, as former Presidents did, nor receive political money from business tycoons.

Those fired were "paid party members" in the DLP headquarters, provincial and municipal district chapters, and the DLP will help many of them find new jobs, said a ranking party official. DLP Secretary-General Choe Hyong-u expressed regret over what was called the "Saturday massacre," saying, however, "the step is inevitable in the party's push for reforms."

Choe said that the DLP had to reduce its organization in the wake of President Kim's announced will for overall reforms in political and government circles. Some 70 percent of the party expenses came in the form of salaries of party employees and officials. But many of the fired DLP employees made strong protests, saying they had sacrificed themselves for the party. "And is this the reward?" they charged.

ROK Studies Plan To Foster Multimedia System Industry

SK2003043693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Mar 93 p 8

[Text] The government is studying an ambitious plan to foster the computer multimedia system industry as one of the nation's strategic industrial sectors, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) said yesterday. Computer multimedia systems are aimed at providing audio, video and other information simultaneously through computers. The new technology is expected to emerge as a promising industry which will likely post an average of 76 percent in sales growth yearly during the '90s, said ministry officials. The new industrial sector is expected to replace the stagnant computer and home appliance industries, they said.

The officials said the ministry plans to hold consultations with relevant government agencies to work out a comprehensive computer multimedia system industry development plan by mid-May. The plan will be submitted to the Industrial Policy Deliberation Committee in June to determine whether the industry should be one of the governmental policy goals, they said.

Under the provisional plan prepared by the ministry, a governmental policy deliberation committee, to be headed by vice minister of trade, industry and energy, would be set up to promote development of the computer multimedia system industry. The committee would have four specialization commissions dealing with four tasks—creation of multimedia demand, development of technology, standardization and overhauling of relevant laws. The officials said 4 billion won would be initially made available from the industry development fund as part of the ministry's efforts to promote the development of computer multimedia technologies.

Computer and home appliance manufacturers in the United States are competing for the standardization of computer multimedia systems. Korean electronics companies have limits in developing the computer multimedia industry on their own mainly because of lack of technology, they said.

Agricultural Product Imports Increases

SK2203091093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Agricultural products account for a growing portion of South Korea's imports, and a withering share of its exports, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said on Monday [22 March]. Last year, agricultural imports were 7.15 billion U.S. dollars, up 3.2 percent from 1991. They accounted for 8.7 percent of Korea's total imports of 81.78 billion dollars, compared with 8.5 percent in 1991, 8.3 percent in 1990 and 8.1 percent in 1985.

Maize imports hit 847 million dollars, up 21.5 percent, and imports of feed, soybean, fruit juice, cookie, and raw material for herb medicine soared 24.5 percent, 18.4 percent, 35.2 percent, 23.8 percent and 18.1 percent, respectively. Fish and timber imports fell 12.1 percent and 3.9 percent.

Exports sank to 2.89 billion dollars, off 3.3 percent. They accounted for 3.8 percent of Korea's total exports of 76.63 billion dollars, compared with 4.2 percent in 1991 and 4.5 percent in 1990. Pork, apple and cookie exports rose 108.8 percent, 25.4 percent and 31.6 percent, respectively, but fish exports fell 7.6 percent.

New Organization Targets Rice Market Protection

SK2203091293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0847 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—A civic organization seeking to protect Korea's rice market was formed Monday [22 MArch] by a broad spectrum of 166 womens, consumer, religious, labor, social and agricultural groups. The "Pan-national Council To Protect Our Rice," promising a nationwide campaign, was launched by the participating private groups in an inauguration ceremony in auditorium belonging to the Federation for Korean Trade Unions (FKTU).

Opening Korea's rice market was not only a problem for the nation's 6 million farmers, but would have a serious impact on the economy, a founding declaration said. It urged the U.S. Administration stop pressuring Korea to open its rice market and advised the government to try every possible method of trade diplomacy to avoid market opening.

The council called on President Kim Yong-sam to abide by his campaign promise to block rice market opening even if he has to risk his presidential post. The council said it intended to advertise the "excellence" of Korean rice and need for its protection, to submit recommendations to the government on how to protect the rice market, to appeal against rice imports to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and Washington, and to send delegation to the Urugual Round trade talks. The council attracted only 30 organizations when plans to set it up were first made early last month, but has since involved the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, the Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection of Korea, the YMCA, the YWCA and the FKTU.

Posco Undergoes Investigation for Tax Evasion

SK1803042093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0119 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—The Justice Ministry has banned 12 current and former executives of Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (Posco) from leaving the country at the request of the National Tax Administration (NTA), which is conducting a tax probe into the state-run company. The ban affects former Posco Chairman Hwang Kyong-no, former President Pak Tok-pyo, former Vice President Yi Tae-kong, Managing Director Kim Yong-un and eight others, NTA sources said. It was issued after an NTA team uncovered traces of large scale tax evasion by the company during an audit that began Feb. 13, the sources said.

Some 30 auditors from NTA's Seoul and Taegu offices are examining Posco's books and are not expected to complete their task until April. NTA requests a ban on overseas travel by company members who may be needed for questioning to avoid delays in an audit, the sources said, adding that company officials are able to leave the country while under the ban if their absence will cause no problem to the investigation.

Burma

Pro-Democracy Politician Allegedly Assassinated

BK2003065893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 20 Mar 93

[By Robert Birsel]

[Text] Bangkok, March 20 (AFP)—A senior member of Burma's pro-democracy opposition was stabbed to death in the southern Chinese city of Kunming in what opposition sources said was a politically motivated killing. Win Ko, an elected member of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), was returning to Thailand from guerrilla-controlled territory in northern Burma when he was murdered at his hotel, Burmese opposition and other sources said Saturday. The minister of finance in Burma's jungle-based dissident government, Win Ko was found dead on his bed in his room at the Tea Garden Hotel in the southern Chinese city, a Burmese opposition source said.

The sources, all of whom declined to be identified, said there was no doubt that his murder, on February 27, was politically motivated, but stressed the incident was still shrouded in mystery.

"All the betting so far is that SLORC agents killed him," one well-informed source on the Thai-Burmese border said. The source stressed, however, no one had any hard evidence to back up the suspicions. SLORC—the State Law and Order Restoration Council—is the official name of Rangoon's military regime.

Burmese dissidents said Saturday the murder "had sounded an alarm" and they were introducing strict security precautions in their frequent movements between guerrilla zones in Burma and neighbouring countries such as Thailand and China. Win Ko was stabbed twice in the chest and had his throat slashed. He had been killed late at night, the sources said. There was no sign of a struggle in the room, and his belongings, including 800 U.S. dollars, were found undisturbed. The only thing missing was his Burmese passport, the opposition source said. A few days before his murder Win Ko had faxed colleagues in Thailand telling them he would be arriving in Thailand on March 2.

Inquiries were made when he failed to appear and eventually it was discovered he was lying in a Kunming morgue where his body remains, the Burmese opposition source said. The sources said there were still many unanswered questions concerning the murder, including the role of China.

It was "very doubtful" that China had anything to do with the murder, one well-informed source said. But some opposition members said China, which has warm relations with the Rangoon regime, may have been involved. Win Ko had been on a secret assignment in an area of northern Burma controlled by Kachin guerrillas, who have been battling Rangoon for greater autonomy for decades.

According to unconfirmed reports, he had met with Kachin guerrilla leader Brang Seng in Kunming shortly before his murder. Kachin guerrilla officials were not immediately available for comment. According to reports a Kachin guerrilla delegation had a round of peace talks with SLORC officers in northern Burma on February 22.

Sources said Saturday they doubted that Win Ko's murder was connected with the peace talks, but they noted that since reports of the negotiations came to light relations between groups within the anti-Rangoon opposition alliance had become more tense.

Win Ko was a close associate of Sein Win, Aung San Suu Kyi's cousin and prime minister of the dissident National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB). He was elected a member of parliament for Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD in Sagaing Division in northwest Burma in May 1990 polls.

Opposition Vows Justice

BK2103062093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0611 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] SYDNEY, March 21 (AFP)—The exiled National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) promised Sunday to bring to justice the murderers of its finance minister, Win Ko, reportedly stabbed to death in China last month. In a statement issued here, the NCGUB said that Win Ko, 45, was "assassinated by political foes" after what it called a successful "organisational trip" to northern Burma last November. The statement did not say where, when or how Win Ko died.

Burmese opposition sources in Bangkok told AFP on Saturday that Win Ko was found dead on February 27 in his room at the Tea Garden Hotel in the southern Chinese city of Kunming. He had been stabbed twice and his throat was cut, the sources said, adding that the killing appeared to be politically motivated.

One source said Win Ko was probably killed by agents of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the military junta which runs Burma.

In its statement here, the NCGUB said "we will find out the responsible party for the assassination of U Win Ko and see that justice is done accordingly." Recalling that Win Ko suuccessfully ran as a candidate for the National League for Democracy in the 1990 general election, and the killing "directly insults the people who voted for (him) as well as those who believe in the principles of elected government." The statement ended with an appeal "to the international community to help find the murderers for trial."

SLORC Denies Involvement

BK2103145393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] In the newscasts of some foreign broadcasting stations, U Win Ko, member of exiled Sein Win's group [The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma], was murdered at a hotel with his throat slashed. He was on his way back to the Karen National Union [KNU] headquarters in Manerplaw after visiting the terrorist insurgent organizations in northern Myanmar [Burma].

Media reports by foreign journalists quote the statement issued by exiled Sein Win's group alleging it as the work of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], accusing the Myanmar [Burmese] military government of using various malicious means to attack the opposition and holding the SLORC responsible for the death of U Win Ko.

The Myanmar Government is in no way responsible for the death of exiled U Win Ko. This cruel death could be the result of unresolved problems existing between terrorist insurgent organizations. This allegation is the work of some foreign broadcasting stations, which do not wish to see peace and tranquility prevail in Myanmar. It has been reported by responsible personnel that it is a deliberate attempt by some foreign broadcasting stations to degrade the SLORC government.

Reportage on Visit by Bangladeshi Minister

Meets SLORC Chairman

BK1903142493 Rangoon Burma Television Network in English 1330 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and prime minister, at 1000 this morning received visiting retired Colonel Oli Ahmed, communication minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and special envoy of Prime Minister Begum Khalid Zia, at the Defense Ministry's Dagon Yeiktha.

Major General Tin U, secretary-2 of the SLORC; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present at the occasion. The visiting minister was accompanied by Mr. Mustafa Farooq Mohammad, ambassador of Bangladesh.

Calls on Ministers

BK1903152993 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Retired Colonel Oli Ahmed, special envoy of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and communications minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, who is currently in Yangon [Rangoon] at the invitation of Rail Transportation Minister U Win Sein, accompanied by Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr. Mustafa Farooq Mohammad, called on National Planning and Economic Development Minister Brigadier General Abel, at the Office of the Commission for Foreign Investment at 1100 this morning.

The visiting minister and delegation then called on Major General Maung Thint, minister for development of border regions and national races, at his ministry in the Secretariat Building at 1200.

At 1400, the visiting minister and delegation also called on Home Minister Major General Mya Thinn at his ministry in the Secretariat Building. At 1900, the visiting minister and delegation called on Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw at the Karaweik Hall. The foreign minister and his wife hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting minister and his wife at Shwewa Room of the Karaweik Hall.

The visiting minister and his wife, accompanied by Bangladeshi ambassador, his wife and responsible personnel, visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the morning. They donated Kyat 2,000, and signed the visitors' book.

The visiting minister and his wife also visited and prayed at Zafar Shah's mosque and at his tomb in Ziwaka Road. They donated 2,000 kyat and signed the visitors' book. In the afternoon, accompanied by Bangladeshi ambassador, the minister visited and prayed at the Bangali Sunni Jameh Mosque on Sule Pagoda Road.

The visiting minister and his wife also visited the Myanmar cooperatives' showroom for export goods in the evening. They were welcomed by Cooperatives Minister U Than Aung and responsible personnel. They were told about the samples of export goods which were displayed in the showroom. After this, they proceeded to the National Museum in Pansodan Road. They were welcomed by Dr. Ye Htut, director general of the Cutural Department, and responsible personnel.

Continues Visit

BK2103083593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Retired Colonel Oli Ahmed, communications minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and special envoy of Prime Minister Begum Khalid Zia, and his wife, who are currently in Yangon [Rangoon] at the invitation of Rail Transportation Minister U Win Sein, left Yangon airport by defense services' plane this morning. They were accompanied by the Bangladeshi ambassador, Mr. Mustafa Farooq Mohammad, and his wife, and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They arrived at Moulmein airport at 0900.

The visiting minister, his wife, and the delegation were welcomed at Moulmein Airport by Brigadier General Ket Sein, chairman of the Mon State Law and Order Restoration Council [MSLORC] and commander of the Southeast Military Command [SMC] and his wife, the deputy commander and his wife, and responsible personnel.

The visiting minister, his wife, and the delegation later visited and prayed at the (Kwinle) Mosque on the upper main road of Kwinyat Ward, Moulmein. They also greeted Muslims there. The visiting minister, his wife, and the delegation later toured Moulmein by car.

Brig. Gen. Ket Sein, chairman of the MSLORC and commander of the SMC, and his wife hosted a lunch in honor the visiting minister, his wife, and the delegation at Moulmein Hotel.

The visiting minister, his wife, and the delegation later visited Kyaikmaraw. They returned to Yangon at 1550 in the evening.

The visiting minister later called on Trade Minister Major General Tun Kyi, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, at Inya Lake Hotel at 1700. Trade Minister Maj. Gen. Tun Kyi hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting minister and his wife at Inya Lake Hotel. It has been learned that the dinner was also attended by the Development of Border Regions and National Races minister, Maj. Gen. Maung Thint; Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; Communications, Post, and Telegraph Minister U Soe Tha; the Bangladeshi ambassador, and his wife.

Departs 21 March

BK2103142493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Retired Colonel Oli Ahmed, communications minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and special envoy of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is currently visiting Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of Rail Transportation Minister U Win Sein, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon. The minister was accompanied by his wife, (Begum Mumtaz).

The Bangladeshi minister, wife, and delegation accompanied by the Bangladeshi ambassador, wife, and responsible personnel this morning visited People's Square and People's Park.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Regrets U.S. Ill-Treatment of Businessman

BK1903141193 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The issue of the Kelantan throne may have to be referred to the Special Court if the state government cannot solve it. Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamed said this after chairing an UMNO [United Malays National Organization] communications forum in Kota Baharu. He said if the state government fails to solve the issue, the federal government will have to take necessary actions approved by the law. The Special Court is empowered to pass judgment on cases involving rulers who break the law. However, the issue should be solved at the state level first. However, the attorney general will decide first whether the case should be brought to the Special Court.

The prime minister also said Malaysia regretted the U.S. authorities' action and procedure in handling the recent case of Tan Sri Eric Chia, managing director of Perwaja Steel Corporation. He expressed doubts that a 60-year-old man like Tan Sri Eric would have acted roughly against a 20-year-old man, who had to call police to solve the problem.

Ministry Summons U.S. Envoy

BK2003071293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry acting secretary general, Datuk Halim Ali, says the United States agreed with Malaysia that incidents like the recent ill-treatment of Malaysian industrialist Tan Sri Eric Chia in New York should not be allowed to recur. Malaysia has expressed concern over the incident and the United States has been asked not to allow incidents of mistreatment of detained Malaysians to happen again.

Datuk Halim was speaking to reporters after U.S. Ambassador John Stern Wolf was summoned to the Foreign Ministry over the incident. During the 20-minute meeting, Datuk Halim said he related the report of the incident by Tan Sri Chia after which Mr. Wolf gave the U.S. version. Datuk Halim said obviously there were differences in the two accounts, but he said Malaysia is concerned over the incident and hoped that such incidents will not happen again and that Malaysians visiting the U.S. will not be improperly treated.

Mahathir Scheduled To Visit Uzbekistan, Iran

BK2003100093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0902 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 20 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed will visit Uzbekistan and Iran for a week beginning March 31.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and an official delegation of 31 people comprising several cabinet ministers, chief ministers, senior government officials, and five MPs [members of parliament].

Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary General Abdul Halim Ali told a news conference that Dr. Mahathir would also be accompanied by more than 50 businessmen who would explore investment and joint-venture opportunities in both the countries.

This is Dr. Mahathir's first visit to Uzbekistan after it became independent last year, and it was also to reciprocate the visit to Malaysia of its president, Dr. Islam A.

Karimov, in June last year. Dr. Mahathir had visited the former Soviet republic in 1987.

In Uzbekistan, Dr. Mahathir will hold talks on bilateral, regional, and international matters with President Karimov and Prime Minister Mutalov.

Abdul Halim said Uzbekistan wanted to cooperate with Malaysia in the manufacture of certain aircraft components, and Airod [corporation] representatives would be in Dr. Mahathir's delegation.

He said Uzbekistan considered Malaysia as having the best potential among countries for stepping up trade and to offer investment and joint-venture opportunities in that country.

Dr. Mahathir and his delegation will visit Bokhara on April 2 before leaving for Tehran the following day for the prime minister's first visit to Iran for four days at the invitation of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He is scheduled to call on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani the same day for talks.

On April 4, Dr. Mahathir will have discussions with Iranian businessmen before going to Qom to visit the Qom Theological Seminary and the Hazrat Fatimah Mausoleum.

Abdul Halim said the prime minister would visit the Qeshm free trade zone on Qeshm Island in southern Iran on April 6.

He said a Malaysian company had agreed to invest in a factory, hotel, and gas industry on the island. He said Iran hoped to diversify its exports to Malaysia, which was now restricted to oil.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Criticizes UNTAC Policy

BK1903124393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Mar 93

["Recent" interview with Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia and member of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, by unidentified BBC Television and Paris LE MONDE correspondents; date and place not given—read by announcers]

[Text] [Correspondent] How optimistic is the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] concerning the upcoming elections?

[Hun Sen] Naturally, I do not want to wear a bear's skin before it is killed. I usually avoid making premature assessments of the election results. However, lately there have been several public opinion polls conducted by a few groups. From the promises of the different political parties that are going to take part in the elections, I can say that it looks as if ours will be the most fortunate party. We will be able to win the majority of votes because the people have compared and seen which party has made what achievements.

Therefore, our chances of winning can be seen with a sense of realism. Between now and the elections, we do not feel there will be anything that would shake the people's confidence in us. On the contrary, between now and the elections, we foresee an even greater possibility for us to enhance the people's confidence in the CPP.

[Correspondent] Does the CPP, if it wins the majority of votes, intend to form a coalition government?

[Hun Sen] To this question, I can see two possibilities: First, the principles of democracy stipulate that anyone with the most votes should set up the government; second, the political willingness to realize national reconciliation; for the sake of national reconciliation, it is possible that we will invite some political parties to join ours in charting the future leadership for the country. However, such a government should not be called a coalition. There is a coalition government in Thailand, but it has never been called a coalition government. It is referred to simply as the Royal Thai Government. Therefore, we would like to have a government of national reconciliation to help each other rebuild the country. As to which parties will be invited to join us, we have a specific principle for that. Parties that have the possibility of working with us must first of all have this qualification: it must not be allied to the Khmer Rouge and it must have as its objective the prevention of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return to power. This is the condition we insist upon to guarantee that there is no human rights violations in Cambodia and no return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

As for the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, it may already be known that to date the Khmer Rouge control it from head to toe. Therefore, this is a major obstacle against us inviting FUNCINPEC to join in the future national leadership. There are many parties whose political line is to oppose the Khmer Rouge. Thus the winners will have a wide range of choices—not just one—to choose from.

[Correspondent] In the future, how will the new government solve the Khmer Rouge problem?

[Hun Sen] The Khmer Rouge question is an important one for the elections and it is the duty of the new government to solve it. First of all, it will have to solve the legal aspect of this problem as the Khmer Rouge have refused to take part in the elections and have opposed the implementation of the Paris agreement. After the elections, should the Khmer Rouge be considered a lawful faction as they are now? In my view, if we maintain the legality of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia will continue in its de facto and de jure division: Cambodia will be controlled on the one side by the legal government and on the other by the Khmer Rouge.

Therefore the legal issue confronting the future government is very important. In my view, the future government will encounter many difficulties if the Khmer Rouge continue to be regarded as a legal faction. However, if they are considered insurgents, even if the new government is not fully capable of immediately controlling Khmer Rouge areas, morally or legally that will not divide Cambodia into two and will make it easy for the future government to take necessary measures to suppress the Khmer Rouge. I think military means is also one way, but not the most important, of dealing with the Khmer Rouge. The most important ones, however, are in the economic and social sectors: rural development that will improve the people's living conditions and thereby win over the people under the control of the Khmer Rouge or arouse them to hit back at their oppressive rule. The socioeconomic questions are, therefore, the most important tool in fighting the influence of the Khmer Rouge.

[Correspondent] UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has issued warrants for the arrest of seven State of Cambodia [SOC] soldiers charged with involvement in the murder of four FUNCINPEC party members. How is that?

[Hun Sen] First of all I would like to tell you that the charge has no legal basis in which to support the arrest warrants. A press communique was made out of the blue claiming that four FUNCINPEC party members had disappeared, and accusing the SOC armed forces of abducting them. The problem arose when the SOC armed forces insisted they did not abduct the four persons. Meanwhile, the absence of the four persons was not reported in the village. Their names were neither listed in the records of the local population nor were they in the records of newly repatriated refugees. This sounded very suspicious. I have asked for more evidence from UNTAC so I can make up my mind whether to arrest the accused and send them for prosecution by the Battambang Province tribunal. His Excellency Akashi and I have had consultations and UNTAC has promised to hand the evidence to the Battambang prosecutor's office. However, I do not understand why UNTAC abused its powers by refusing to implement the agreement reached between myself and H.E. Akashi and instead raised an uproar about a perceived human rights violation. UNTAC has also abused its powers by trespassing on the private residences of Cambodian generals and high-ranking officers and by causing disturbances in the positions of the Cambodian Armed Forces.

It is very suspicious that the names given to us by UNTAC included many which do not exist in the Armed Forces roster and do not even have distinct family names. This therefore constitutes an UNTAC breach of the cooperative understanding between us and UNTAC and of the judicial regulations concerning evidence for arrest [words indistinct]. So, the Armed Forces have lodged a strong protest to the UN secretary-general against UNTAC's 10 March human rights violation.

[Correspondent] UNTAC has criticized the SOC on two points: First, that they are a menace to the election process, and second, on the announced general offensive. What are your answers to that?

[Hun Sen] UNTAC's criticism against us for intimidations or acts of political violence is ungrounded and false. As far as we are concerned, our interest is in the elections. Therefore, would we have any reason to sabotage the elections? UNTAC's belief in the plaintiffs without thorough investigation leads to its partiality in its statements. Let me cite one example: UNTAC had charged that the Prey Veng provincial authorities seized voting cards from the people, considering this an act of intimidation. UNTAC then sent forces to conduct a search in Prey Veng Province. This was not an ordinary fact-finding inquiry but an inquisition usually reserved for criminal offenses. As a result of the search, UNTAC instead discovered a document in which the provincial authorities ordered the localities to see to it that the people take good care of their cards so they can exercise their right during the elections. The Khmer Rouge, who come to Prey Veng Province via Kompong Cham, have seized and destroyed the people's voting cards. There have also been individuals going around buying these cards at prices ranging from 20,000 to 50,000 riels. Therefore, all this completely contradicts UNTAC's charge that the provincial authorities have confiscated the people's voting cards. I have asked UNTAC to make a rectification. But it has not yet done anything to that effect because it seems to believe that it is god and whatever it says must always be right. But it has seriously hurt the honor and dignity of my party and of many figures in my party. Nevertheless, it is good that the people have shown UNTAC that it is wrong. Tens of thousands of people in Prey Veng Province do not have any problem with their cards.

On the second charge that we were the first to launch the offensive, I would like to say that we have not launched any offensive at all. Whatever we did, we did it in self-defense since UNTAC has authorized us to defend ourselves. UNTAC was not unaware that we launched a self-defense offensive when the Khmer Rouge heavily attacked Bavel and Ratanamondol districts, causing many deaths and forcing tens of thousands to flee. We have conducted such activities in a territory that is even much smaller than what we used to control before the signing of the Paris agreement. If we did not conduct these activities, would UNTAC be able to stay there and would it be possible to hold the election in Bavel district at all? As a matter of fact, UNTAC has pulled out of many areas that came under Khmer Rouge attacks, leaving the people alone. In Stoung district 10 days ago, if we did not want help, this district would have already been under Khmer Rouge control. We would like to ask: Can UNTAC live with the Khmer Rouge?

A few days ago the Khmer Rouge massacred ethnic Vietnamese and Cambodians in Siem Reap. If we had not prevented them, such incidents would have happened in many more places.

UNTAC's accusations make it necessary for us to reexamine our military attitude: should we be on the defensive or on the retreat? For the time being, our decision on a given case will be based merely on public opinion and UNTAC's mood. If UNTAC wants us to retreat, we will retreat. However, will UNTAC be able to proceed with the elections when the election zones keep dwindling and the number of voters keep decreasing. How will the people suffer under such attacks?

[Correspondent] Can UNTAC carry out its duty in a different way? Will it need more powers to implement the Paris agreement?

[Hun Sen] In my opinion, the powers given to it by the Paris agreement and the UN Security Council are more than sufficient. One example: UNTAC has the power to deploy forces throughout Cambodia. UNTAC has sent forces to SOC-controlled zones but it has not done so with Khmer Rouge zones: They need Khmer Rouge permission for everything. The UN Security Council decided that UNTAC inspection teams be deployed along the Cambodian-Thai border; but so far UNTAC has not yet done so. UNTAC has exercised its courage only with [words indistinct] to search in Prey Veng and Takeo provinces and in the residence of a general and the offices of our Armed Forces in Battambang Province. UNTAC is brave toward the gentle people but not at all with the Khmer Rouge. This is [words indistinct] in UNTAC's mission in Cambodia.

Let me stress that in making these remarks I have no intention of propagandizing against UNTAC. I am not against it. I only want to tell the truth. This is what happened: UNTAC is now trying to control our political right of expression but it has never [words indistinct] against the Khmer Rouge. The right to make my opinion known, such as my remarks just now that UNTAC lacks courage [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] There are accusations now that Vietnam has moved the Cambodian-Vietnamese border into Cambodian territory. If the CPP wins the elections, will the government move the border back or will it negotiate with Vietnam to restore the borderline?

[Hun Sen] Let me tell you that the accusations that Vietnam has moved the border into Cambodia are not recent. I have repeatedly raised this question at international conferences as well as at various meetings with other Cambodian factions. If there is proof of such an anomaly, the issue should be raised with me or with UNTAC. UNTAC itself has set up checking posts at several points along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, and we have never heard UNTAC say that the border has been moved into Cambodian territory. More important still, I would like to tell you that for years various factions have accused us of portioning off the territory and giving it to Vietnam. Now, the SNC with all Cambodian factions as its members has recognized the use of the 1/100,000 map published by the Indochinese Cartographic Group before 1954 as the map which determines the Cambodian-Vietnamese borderline. Therefore, it has recognized a map that we have already endorsed with Vietnam. On the point where there is unanimity of views among all Cambodian factions as well as with Vietnam on the use of the same map, dated in the same year, and published by the same publisher, I see the Cambodian-Vietnamese border issue as a non-issue. Everything should be settled on the basis of law and by the map. For us, any [words indistinct] will be discussed in order to be corrected in accordance with the map. [Words indistinct] moving the border into Cambodia, in fact, will never be tolerated. There must be talks to return the borderline back to its previous position.

To date, as far as we are concerned, we have not seen such a problem take place anywhere. There are only accusations and the UNTAC at the border has never mentioned this problem.

[Correspondent] Cambodia is located between two big countries, Vietnam and Thailand. In particular, the Khmer Rouge and other parties have tried to exploit the issue of the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia. How do you deal with the relations with these two countries, especially Vietnam?

[Hun Sen] It is widely known that throughout our history we have been flanked by two bigger countries. On this question, in my view, I think that in order for Cambodia to have peace, the best solution is that it must have good relations with all neighboring countries. We should see that no use of force be referred to in settling a problem. All solutions must be found through peaceful negotiations. In reality, the Khmer Rouge and their allies have been talking only about what they call Vietnamese, but they forget that Cambodia has a common border not just with Vietnam. It also has a common border with Thailand and Laos. Accusations have been made only about Vietnamese nationals and Vietnamese forces in Cambodia. No one has mentioned the presence of neighboring forces in our country or of other nationals who have come in by the thousands to cut trees and to mine gems in Cambodia. My opinion is that the political exploitation of only the Vietnamese presence by the Khmer Rouge and their allies is most understandable. However, if they hold power, I think they will be very dangerous because they want not just the land Cambodia currently has, they also harbor the ambition of wanting to get back that part of the territory known as Kampuchea Kraom. I believe this is very dangerous. As far as we are concerned, I would like to tell you that we try to preserve the existing territory recognized before 1970 only. This means that we are not going to demand the return of Kampuchea Kraom in southern Vietnam nor are we going to reclaim possession of the land known as Surin in Thailand. What is important to us is to preserve at all costs the land we have before 1970.

LE MONDE Interviews Hun Sen

PM1903151893 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Mar 93 p5

[Interview with Prime Minister Hun Sen by correspondent Jean-Claude Pomonti in Phnom Penh; date not given]

[Text] Phnom Penh—[Pomonti] What chances does your party have of winning the elections?

[Hun Sen] We must not count our chickens before they are hatched, but the various recent opinion polls show that our party has the best chance of winning. We can win because the trend is in favor of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and this trend will grow stronger over the weeks.

[Pomonti] In the case of victory, do you envisage the formation of a coalition government with the United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC]?

[Hun Sen] The democratic principle requires that the majority should form the government alone. But, in the case of Cambodia, we must take account of the desire for national reconciliation. To succeed, we will therefore perhaps be called upon to invite some parties to work with us within the framework of a government of union for national rebuilding. But those parties must not be allied to the Khmer Rouge because we do not want a return to a genocide regime. However, FUNCINPEC is controlled from top to bottom by the Khmer Rouge.

[Pomonti] In January, you said that the Khmer Rouge should be declared illegal. Do you still think that?

[Hun Sen] Because of the Paris agreements, the Khmer Rouge are still a legal faction. Their status therefore depends on the Supreme National Council and the United Nations. As far as we are concerned, if we cannot secure their expulsion from the peace process, we will make every effort to have them declared illegal. But that cannot be achieved until after the elections.

[Pomonti] Is there still a political solution to the Cambodian conflict?

[Hun Sen] A political defeat would make the United Nations' major failure in Cambodia obvious. That is not possible. It will be up to the future elected government to solve the problem posed by the Khmer Rouge. But there are precedents in the region. In Thailand, Malaysia, and also now in the Philippines, it has taken years, sometimes 30 years, to end rebellions. After the elections, we will no longer be able to accept that a legal party should be engaged in dissident activity and control part of national territory.

[Pomonti] So you are only envisaging a military solution?

[Hun Sen] Many measures will be taken. The most important will be the social and economic development of the rural areas to reduce the Khmer Rouge's influence. We will also have to make political decisions in order to isolate them. The military solution must only be the last resort.

[Pomonti] With the Khmer Rouge's refusal to implement the military clauses of the Paris agreement, Cambodia is experiencing an armed "peace." Is there not a risk of seeing anarchy develop?

[Hun Sen] For more than a year, anarchy has been developing. Acts of gangsterism are on the increase. At present, with the cooperation of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], we are waging a campaign to confiscate illegal weapons. It is not easy, but we will manage to control the situation. Any country which has experienced a long period of war suffers the consequences for a long time. This is particularly difficult in Cambodia because the Khmer Rouge are refusing to lay down their arms.

[Pomonti] The UNTAC is accusing you of intimidating your election opponents.

[Hun Sen] The criticism is unjustified. UNTAC only listens to one side, and that distorts its judgment. We stand to gain nothing from distorting the elections. Similarly, we did not launch a "general offensive" in February, as UNTAC announced despite the fact that it knows very well that we have limited ourselves to self-defense operations.

UNTAC is not pleased when I say that its men are fleeing the Khmer Rouge attacks, abandoning the population. It ought instead to thank us for defending the territories where the elections will be held. Just recently, Vietnamese were killed by Khmer Rouge in Siemreab province. Khmer Rouge even plundered UNTAC offices. We are even defending UN people and we are accused of violating the peace agreement. Ought we to withdraw every time the Khmer Rouge attack?

[Pomonti] Prince Sihanouk advocated an alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC. Since that has not been done, what role can he play?

[Hun Sen] Prince Sihanouk continues to play an important role in the peace process. Despite his health problems, he is not stinting in his efforts. An alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC has been his ardent desire and it is not his fault if it has not been achieved. In our view, the FUNCINPEC people are Khmer Rouge and they share with the Khmer Rouge the aim of opposing us. As father of the country, the prince wants to unite all political parties. Whether that is feasible is another matter.

[Pomonti] How do you judge the UNTAC action?

[Hun Sen] The powers granted to UNTAC were extensive enough. What it lacked was the boldness and courage to be firm toward the Khmer Rouge. UNTAC has the power to deploy its forces over the whole of Cambodian territory. In the areas controlled by the

Khmer Rouge, it has not succeeded. On the other hand, it does not lack audacity where we are. It searched the residence of our generals in Battambang again on 8 March. It is bold in tackling the good guys but not with the others. When we criticize UNTAC, it accuses us of propaganda. However, it is our right of free speech. When UNTAC is against us, it is always right, even when it is wrong.

[Pomonti] Will you be in Phnom Penh during the visit by the UN secretary general, on 7 April on principle, the day when the election campaign starts?

[Hun Sen] Possibly not. I told my aides that I will be in the provinces from 5 April to 19 May. The people want to hear me speak. The loss of a day's campaigning is a big loss. But there are other members of the Supreme National Council to welcome Mr. Butrus-Ghali.

Sihanouk Remarks on Deadline for Intervention

BK2003035293 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Report on the "essence" of an interview with Prince Norodom Sihanouk by (BND) magazine correspondent on 17 March; place not given]

[Text] On 17 March 1993 [date as heard], Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, granted an interview to a monthly magazine (BND) concerning the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] failure in Cambodia and the prince's plan to launch a second royal crusade for Cambodia's independence. Following is the essence of the interview.

Question: After the May 1993 election, will you accept some power from the Phnom Penh side or parties which win the election?

Answer: I will not accept any power. I will retire at the end of UNTAC's mandate. If the situation at the end of 1993 deteriorates, however, I will launch a second royal crusade to restore Cambodia with its territorial integrity the way it was before 1969.

Question: The BANGKOK POST wrote on 13 March that the U.S. and Thai foreign ministers are concerned about the Cambodian issue. These two ministers agreed that Prince Norodom Sihanouk should be the one to solve the Cambodian problem. They agreed that going along with the prince's proposal is very important because the prince is a leader who can solve major issues. They said without the prince, the Cambodian problem cannot be solved. What are your views on this?

Answer: I thank the U.S. and Thai foreign ministers. I will inform Butrus-Ghali, who is visiting Phnom Penh on 7 April, that I will carry out all my duties to implement correctly the Paris agreement. No more, no less. Time does not permit me to do more than this despite proposals of the United Nations or other major foreign powers. UNTAC, major foreign powers, and backers have all the power to administer Cambodia and use an army to do what they think is for the benefit of the Cambodian nation and people. Up to now, I have done all I can to get Akashi and UNTAC to take measures within the framework of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

I would like to say that one day I could launch a second royal crusade outside the framework of the Paris agreement. At the moment I give UNTAC, teachers, and backers until September 1993 before I intervene to restore my motherland and people.

Question: UNTAC Chief Akashi recently said that the May 1993 elections could be canceled. What is your view?

Answer: UNTAC, the Phnom Penh side, and the UN Security Council [UNSC] have gone too far now; they will have to organize elections in Cambodia to save themselves from disgrace and to maintain their honor. UNTAC, the Phnom Penh side, and the UNSC have made a big mistake. If they let Cambodia be divided in two, it would be a serious violation of the Paris agreement.

If UNTAC, the Phnom Penh side, and the UNSC do not proceed with the election, this is committing suicide. If they fail, they will certainly blame Cambodians and Sihanouk, the way they did at the Paris conference in 1989. However, even if UNTAC, the Phnom Penh side, teachers, and backers, play this trick, they cannot escape from being denounced by history. Many Cambodians will say that they did not ask UNTAC to spend over 2 billion dollars in Cambodia. UNTAC's arrival in Cambodia has brought many Vietnamese prostitutes, the AIDS disease, massage girls, and more corruption to Cambodia. UNTAC has brought losses to Cambodia's natural resources, caused confusion in the Cambodian people's lives, and increased human rights violations. UNTAC has not solved the issue of Cambodia's loss of territorial integrity, independence, and national unity. UNTAC has not solved the issue of Vietnam's aggression and occupation in Cambodia and plunder of Cambodia's economy, and so on.

The Cambodian issue now is like a nightmare for the UNSC, just like when the United States was bogged down in Vietnam from 1960 to 1970. In 1993, UNTAC, the Phnom Penh side, and the UNSC have gone too far and are already bogged down in Cambodia.

Sihanouk To Intervene If UNTAC Fails

BK2103024693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Interview with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, by unidentified correspondent of (BND) magazine on 18 March; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] Some foreigners have proposed that you should do your utmost to achieve national reconciliation between the warring parties so as to restore peace to Cambodia. What is your opinion about the proposal?

[Sihanouk] In 1987, when the war between the national resistance movement on the one hand and the Vietnamese and Khmer Vietminh troops on the other was proceeding fiercely, I dared risk criticism and condemnation from His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, those struggling against the Vietnamese aggressors, as well as the resistance movement's supporters—including the ASEAN governments—by starting negotiations with our enemies represented by Hun Sen. My action was aimed at bringing about national reconciliation and peace in Cambodia. The Sihanouk-Hun Sen talks in France, Thailand, Indonesia, and Japan were conducted until 1991. In 1991 in Jakarta, Hun Sen and I, with Prince Norodom Ranariddh's support, announced the full and definitive implementation of a cease-fire between the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and Phnom Penh factions and the (?cessation) of military support. Later, I persuaded the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] Party to adopt peaceful means to bring about national reconciliation. As a result, the peace accord was concluded in Paris on 23 October 1991.

Between 1991 and 1992, I strived with maximum effort and capability in Cambodia to get all Cambodians to implement the accord. I also helped the UN secretary general, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the Paris Conference cochairmen, and the core group of the five major powers to achieve success. I also took a host of measures within the framework of the democratic peace process to rebuild the country and improve the people's living conditions, and so on. I have never done anything to obstruct the work of UNTAC or other people.

In 1993, which has been the worst year, I clearly realized that I am no longer able to serve my country and people because some factions are determined to attack and breach the Paris accord—including its three essential clauses—the fundamental law and democracy, the spirit and essence of the electoral law, and human rights. A Cambodian faction, the most important one, is resolute in placing its interests above national interests, national support, and the lives of the Cambodian people. It has rejected my proposal aimed at achieving national reconciliation.

Given the situation, I am obliged to distance myself to some extent from these factions. They are still my children, however, and I am still affectionate and considerate toward them, but Norodom Sihanouk is unable to do anything at all to help them reach national reconciliation. They do not agree to join hands to achieve peace, rebuild the country, or serve our people.

[Correspondent] At present, scores of Cambodians living abroad, especially those in France, have begged you to implement your February 1993 plan and to launch a second crusade in order to save the nation. What do you think of this?

[Sihanouk] Please read my statement and communique: I will only be able to intervene after UNTAC suffers complete failure. In essence, it is currently impossible for me to implement my plan because UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction are currently maneuvering and are not ready to relinquish power. They will not renounce power unless they totally fail.

Sihanouk: Vietnamese Settlers 'Will Not Be Spared'

BK2203020093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Mar 93

["Essence" of 19 March message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, to Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam—read by announcer]

[Text] I have firmly requested that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the Phnom Penh side, and other members of the Supreme National Council do their best and take measures to prevent criminal activities. However, the current situation in Cambodia is increasingly chaotic. UNTAC and the Phnom Penh side, who have the power and the army, have been incompetent in preventing these criminal acts. Therefore, Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia should return to Vietnam because their lives will not be spared in Cambodia.

Sihanouk: Country Needs Leader Like Kim Il-Song

BK2203030693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Mar 93

["Essence" of interview with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, with (BND) magazine on 21 March—place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] All Cambodians have called for urgent national reconciliation under the prince's leadership. However, in a recent interview with the French newspaper LE MONDE Hun Sen said his party would win the election and that he would form a government without the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and Democratic Kampuchea parties. This is the Phnom Penh side's view of national reconciliation. What is your view on this issue?

[Sihanouk] National unity is possible only when there is national reconciliation. National reconciliation and unity can only be achieved when all Cambodian sides and political parties are willing to tolerate and forgive one another, to reconcile with one another, and to unite on common grounds to save the nation. There should be no armed clashes and no destruction of Cambodia's state and national resources. A sacred struggle should be waged to win respect and official recognition from others. Because Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos have legal land and sea borders that were set in 1953, a multiparty commission should be set up to wrest back Cambodia's full independence, neutrality, and genuine nonaligned status, and to organize general elections in all zones, including those of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea with the participation of all Cambodians inside and outside the country, including the Cambodians in Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam]. Liberal democratic laws should be adopted allowing many political parties, free press and television, and full respect for human rights.

I think organizing such a plan will face problems when it comes to actual implementation because the Phnom Penh side has fully and categorically rejected it, making my national reconciliation and unity plan a failure. My family and I have suffered seriously and the majority of the Cambodian people support me in the idea that the Khmer Rouge should not be excluded in solving the Cambodian problem. History will grant me justice.

As for the accusation that FUNCINPEC has become the Khmer Rouge, this is not true. Some people, such as Sam Rangsi and the Phnom Penh side, are categorically opposed to the Khmer Rouge. However, there are Khmer Rouge hidden in the Phnom Penh regime.

In sum, Cambodia should be saved; anger should be abandoned and tolerance practiced.

[Correspondent] The Cambodian people built Angkor Wat. Why is it that since 1970 our Cambodian people have been on the decline in the international arena?

[Sihanouk] The Cambodian people need a leader like Tito of Yugoslavia or Kim Il-song of the DPRK. In China, after the death of Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, there is Chairman Deng Xiaoping. Our Cambodia is in its current state of decline because of disunity. National interests have been abandoned and attention focused on the interests of individuals and their groups.

[Correspondent] According to UNTAC, there are 12 million Cambodians in the country. What is your view?

[Sihanouk] This figure is incorrect; it figures in many Vietnamese settlers. In 1969, there were only 7 million Cambodians.

Government Affirms 50-Riel Bank Notes Valid

BK2003084393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Mar 93

["Government communique"—read by announcer]

[Text] The State of Cambodia [SOC] Government would like to inform respected and beloved compatriots that in the long journey during the past nearly 15 years since 7 January 1979, our beloved Angkor motherland has gone through hundreds of difficulties left over by the danger of the past. Furthermore, unfriendly forces have been causing calamities aimed at destroying the rebirth of our Cambodian people and nation.

Faced with this pathetic and painful situation covered with wounds and heaps of destruction which people have suffered in the great and bloody disaster and sea of tears, the Cambodian People's Party, the SOC Government, and our people have unreservedly made efforts to overcome these tragic signs and have revived all social aspects and enabled society to function normally.

At the sacred request of the people, the SOC Government has since March 1980 printed and put back to use riel bank notes. This has greatly contributed to the rebirth and improved living standards of the people and has transformed the face of our Cambodian motherland. It has resulted in the increase of production and goods circulation among the people and throughout the country.

To this day, the SOC Government never intended to change or refuse the riel bank notes. However, unfriendly forces have been trying to find every means to successively instigate troubles with the aim of rejecting the riel currency. More recently, they have fomented the movement to reject the 50-riel denomination. These acts are not simply economic and social sabotage; they have also created confusion in markets and affected the lives of people and the majority of low-income workers who have suffered further losses to their legitimate wealth. This has also allowed some opportunists to take advantage of workers.

The SOC Government would like to inform the public that the 50-riel bank notes are still valid throughout the country. Everyone in possession of these 50-riel notes is still fully and legally entitled to circulate them in transactions among themselves and between people and the state. The government would like to reaffirm that it will not tolerate anyone committing a violation by instigating the rejection or refusing to accept this type of banknote. It considers all attempts to devalue the riel currency and to reject the riel bank notes as economic sabotage which intentionally or unintentionally serves the maneuvers to return the genocidal regime to power.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 20 March

Riel Stabilizes After 20 Percent Drop

BK2103070693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, March 21 (AFP)—The Cambodian riel stabilized at a 20 percent lower rate Sunday after plunging on the black market and forcing traders to close their shops rather than risk using the unstable currency. The riel was trading at about 3,000 to the U.S. dollar, after plunging to up to 6,000 in the hands of speculators cashing in on the panic Saturday. The currency was worth 2,500 to the dollar one week ago. Inflation soared as imports linked to the dollar rate, such as gasoline, doubled and even quadrupled in price. The United Nations said the currency plunge was caused by an unexplained sudden lack of confidence in the currency.

Shopkeepers and gold sellers tentatively opened their doors Sunday morning after closing as chaos erupted in the marketplace the day before and traders refused to accept the unstable riel. U.N. peacekeepers were standing by to quell any unrest, but feared demonstrations did not materialize. Cambodia's official exchange rate is based on the black market and is largely ignored as most economic activity centers around markets rather than banks.

Leaders 'Panicked'

BK2203033493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Reports from all over say that in Phnom Penh and various provinces, confusion is reigning over the noncirculation of the puppets' currency. According to successive reports from all places, in Phnom Penh as well as in various provinces and markets, there is confusion among people over the noncirculation of the puppets' currency.

The puppets' riel currency has been devalued and is now like waste paper. A Thai baht is equivalent to from 120 to 150 riels. The masses and big and small traders in markets have refused to accept the riel in 50-, 100-, and even 500-riel denominations; they want only baht, dollars, or gold. Vendors and buyers are panicking over the noncirculation of the puppets' currency. Shops and big and small stores have closed. People, traders, workers, civil servants, soldiers, and policemen of the puppets are in a panic. They say that the puppets' riel has no future. Even child beggars are tearing up 50-riel bank notes. In Sisophon market [in northwestern Cambodia], child beggars are also tearing up the puppets' 50-riel bank notes because these cannot be used to buy anything.

A lot of people are now waiting because they know that Democratic Kampuchea has printed riel bank notes. They are only waiting to accept them politically and for their reasonable trading value. These bank notes have a future, unlike those of the puppets, who have kept printing them to cheat the people.

This situation has greatly panicked puppet Hun Sen and other puppet leaders. Puppet Hun Sen spoke to Phnom Penh puppet Ke Kimyan, who was traveling to Banteay Meanchey with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and discussed how to repress people who refuse to circulate the puppets' currency. Puppet Ke Kimyan refused to return to Phnom Penh because he was afraid of public demonstrations.

People have predicted that the puppet regime will crumble this year because it no longer has money to pay puppet soldiers, policemen, and civil servants. Soon soldiers, policemen, and civil servants of the puppets will stop working and will desert the puppet leaders. No one will be working for the puppets anymore because this is an issue directly affecting the people's daily lives.

Phnom Penh Leaders Said Preparing To Flee

BK2203032693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Reliable sources in Phnom Penh say that the puppet leaders, traitors to the nation, Chea Sim, Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, Hor Namhong, Tie Banh, and other puppet leaders are moving their relatives abroad in preparation to flee the country when their plan, in collusion with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], fails.

According to the sources, the latest plan of these puppets is to organize dubious elections along with military attacks against the people and the resistance forces everywhere. The goal is to destroy the resistance forces and also to hold suspect elections. However, if this plan fails, they will flee abroad to save their skins.

Those following the development of the situation in Cambodia can clearly see that the puppet leaders, in collusion with Vietnam and UNTAC, will certainly fail. The plan to hold elections to legitimize the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam and the puppets in line with shared interests, will certainly fail because in Cambodia at present the people and resistance forces are opposing Vietnam, the puppets, and UNTAC for cheating to maintain the Vietnamese aggressor forces and the puppet regime and for destroying the resistance forces.

The peoples' activities are becoming more vigorous against the Vietnamese aggressors in Cambodia; people are against laws that allow the Vietnamese to vote. The resistance forces and various political parties are gradually withdrawing from the UNTAC-organized election. Therefore, it is likely that no one will vote. The plan of Vietnam, the puppets, and Akashi will fail. [passage omitted]

Nations Ready Military Aid for Elected Government

BK2203090493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Canberra, March 22 (AFP)—A number of countries are planning military help for an elected Cambodian government if the Khmer Rouge resumes fighting, the Australian head of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cambodia said here Monday [22 March]. But Lieutenant General John Sanderson made clear that whatever happens, it would be a matter for Cambodia and he did not believe the United Nations would intervene again. Sanderson, who is home for a conference, told journalists that if the Khmer Rouge did not come into the political life of Cambodia, "they're going to be an internal security problem." "If they have no support from outside ... they might be able to cause some problems for a limited period of time."

Cambodia's government would be expected instead to "make arrangements with individual nations of its choice". He said Southeast Asian and other nations were already beginning to plan for military assistance to an elected Cambodian government, but did not name the other countries. "A lot of states are looking at the question of what Cambodia might need after the election, but what Cambodia might need is a decision for the Cambodians," Sanderson said. The United Nations had never intervened in an internal security matter.

Australia has about 500 troops serving with the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) which is supervising elections planned for late May. It plans to withdraw its troops within three months of the formation of a national Cambodian government and Sanderson said he personally expected to be "home for Christmas" with the Australian troops. He said there was little chance of a longer-term Australian commitment, although some communications elements might remain to allow the withdrawal of U.N. assets.

Although the peace process had not gone according to plan, because the Khmer Rouge had refused to disarm its troops and take part in the election, Sanderson expected the May election to be legitimate and valid. He said UNTAC had enrolled about 95 percent of adults, and aside from the five percent living in Khmer Rouge-controlled zones or the ten percent in unsafe "fringe" zones, the majority were expected to vote for one of the 20 political parties registered for the election. The murderous Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia for four years from 1975 until it was deposed by a Vietnamese invasion. It waged a guerilla war against the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government until a peace accord between the country's four factions was signed in October 1991 in Paris.

Sanderson said his troops were prepared for increased military activity from the Khmer Rouge, but said roving bandits represented a bigger problem. There were still up to 400,000 weapons in Cambodia despite the collection by UNTAC of 55,000 guns. He also warned the new Cambodian government had to be given funds to pay its civil servants, police and army, if it was expected to run the country.

Supreme National Council Meets 20 Mar

BK2103032693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] A meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] was held at 0800 on 20 March at UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Headquarters in Phnom Penh. Both Son Sen and Khieu Samphan, SNC members of the Khmer Rouge faction, were absent.

After the meeting participants approved the agenda, His Excellency [H.E.] Akashi reported on the development of the situation, informing the participants that by 30 March some 370,000 refugees will have returned to Cambodia. Training on mine-clearing has proceeded rapidly. A mine-clearing commission has been set up and is currently striving so that Cambodia can achieve self-reliance in this field. Verification on illegal arms has been carried out actively.

H.E. Akashi warned that those possessing illegal arms are given three weeks to dispose of the arms, hand them over to authorities, or apply for an arms permit or else face punishment by court order for a term of imprisonment from three months to two years.

H.E. Akashi also issued a statement condemning the massacre of 33 ethnic Vietnamese civilians in Chong Sniet village, Siem Reap Province, most of whom were women and children born in Cambodia who earned their living from fishing along Tonle Sap lake. H.E. Akashi assumes that the Khmer Rouge committed that massacre, an act that constitutes a reprise of the past tragedy that the UN Security Council would certainly not allow to return.

In his capacity as UN representative in Cambodia, his excellency solemnly declared that UNTAC would do its best to arrest and send those criminals to court. His excellency (?authorized) state authorities to [words indistinct] Khmer Rouge leaders who led that massacre.

At the same time, Phnom Penh-based ambassadors and mission heads from Australia, France, Germany, England, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Thailand, and the United States issued a statement strongly condemning such a barbarous crime committed [words indistinct] against ethnic Vietnamese in Siem Reap Province, a gross violation of human rights and the Paris agreement. The representative of the Chinese mission in Cambodia also joined this condemnation.

For his part, H.E. Hor Namhong stressed that [words indistinct] violation of human rights and daily massacre against Vietnamese nationals as well as innocent Cambodians. H.E. Hor Namhong fervently demanded that the Khmer Rouge be withdrawn from the SNC, saying that keeping them would be tantamount to encouraging them to commit further massacres. Moreover, the international community should set up an international tribunal to try them for their genocidal crimes.

Concerning a neutral political atmosphere, (Som Reangsi), representative of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, said that the State of Cambodia [SOC] killed FUNCINPEC member (U Liengpa) in Tbong Khmum District, Kompong Cham Province. H.E. Hor Namhong stated that this was a groundless accusation. He lodged an official complaint against (Som Reangsi) for slander, asking the court to consider the matter.

H.E. Hor Namhong added that if the Khmer Rouge could kill millions of Cambodians why could they not kill a few more persons so as to put the blame on the SOC and destroy the elections? [Words indistinct] H.E. Hor Namhong explained that (U Liengpa) was a vice chairman of the financial committee in Tbong Khmum District [words indistinct] FUNCINPEC member who used to trade with the Khmer Rouge, buying logs for his sawmills. The Tboung Khmum District's financial sector did not know that this man was a FUNCINPEC member.

H.E. Akashi stressed that UNTAC is investigating this case and has not yet found any political implications. H.E. Hor Namhong also described [passage indistinct]. H.E. Hor Namhong stressed that the SOC would not take responsibility for any future violation and its bad consequences.

Concerning the protection of natural resources in Cambodia, H.E. Akashi reported that log exports were lower than in February. Concerning precious gems, his excellency reported that he had met and discussed with reliable Thai authorities concerning cooperation between UNTAC and neighboring countries. H.E. Hor Namhong proposed [words indistinct] Thailand through (?Laos) by private traders [words indistinct]. The meeting unanimously approved the formation of a technical consultative committee in charge of drafting a new constitution of Cambodia.

Concerning border checks, H.E. Hor Namhong proposed the checking of all borders—west and east, on land and at sea. [Passage indistinct] press reports that 80 SOC soldiers captured by the Khmer Rouge who fled across the border into Thai territory, were arrested and sent back to the Khmer Rouge by Thai authorities. He said that it was an inhumane act running counter to international law. They should return the prisoners to the International Red Cross. Handing them over to the Khmer Rouge was tantamount to killing them.

H.E. Akashi promised to examine the two cases, and if they are found to be true, he will not hesitate to discuss and resolve the cases with the Thai authorities. The next SNC meeting will be held on 4 April under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC.

Indonesia

AFP: Cabinet Changes Show Response to Muslims

BK1803123893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 18 Mar 93

[By Pascal Mallet]

[Text] Jakarta, March 18 (AFP)—Indonesia's President Suharto has strengthened his power base with cabinet changes that met the aspirations of the country's 83 percent Muslim majority to have more say in its government, analysts said here Thursday [18 March]. In the new cabinet announced late Wednesday he slashed the proportion of Christians among the 41 ministers from nearly 20 percent to around seven percent, more than answering previous criticism that the faith, which constitutes only 9.6 percent of the total 183 million population, was over-represented in power.

Suharto, 71, who was under pressure in particular from Research and Development Minister Jusuf Habibie to take such steps, has been noticeably warming to Muslim sympathies in the past two years. He has made the ritual pilgrimage to Mecca, for example, supported the building of mosques and allowed female students in state-run schools to wear veils. One analyst commented that Suharto's objective in probably the last of his six consecutive five-year terms in office which began this month seemed to be to seek more recognition as a true head of state from the masses of the world's largest Muslim country. "He has distanced himself from the traditional supports of his regime, the Armed Forces, the U.S.-trained technocrats and the largely Christian Chinese business community," the analyst said.

But Sabam Sirait, a leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party, which has Christian and nationalist membership, observed Thursday that if Suharto really wanted to identify with the masses he would have named to the cabinet someone from the Muslim United Development Party.

As usual, neither of the two legal opposition parties has been given any place in the cabinet, which is still packed by members of the ruling Golkar alliance though in different proportions. Out went four representatives of the military, cutting their numbers by two-thirds, including four-star generals Sudomo (coordinating minister for political and security affairs), Rudini (home affairs) and Murdani (defence). The Army can be happy with its new chief of staff Edi Sudrajat also being named as defence minister, and can be assured of the sympathy of the new vice-president, ex-Armed Forces chief Try Sutrisno.

On the economic side Suharto has dumped finance minister Johannes Sumarlin, who also had a reputation for speaking his mind, and coordinating minister for the economy, finance and development Radius Prawiro. However Prawiro's successor, Saleh Affif, is a Berkeley-trained moderate who does not belong to Habibie's faction. An Indonesian analyst commented that Suharto was too sensible to risk upsetting international support when the country requires five billion dollars in credit each year.

Habibie, 56, has still managed to promote a number of his proteges, including Azwar Anas, who was moved to coordinating minister for public welfare from communications. But he himself stays in his former post, to the relief of his critics.

The new make-up of the cabinet gives three posts to Christians (a Catholic and two Protestants), down from eight including Murdani and Sudomo, and one to a Hindu. Serving military officers were reduced from 12 to eight, and out of 41 ministers in the last administration 22 have been replaced.

Police Detain Students Protesting Suharto Reelection

BK2103080093 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Police detained four students for staging a demonstration outside the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) yesterday, where MPR members are vehemently debating increasing democratic freedoms in the country. Dozens of security officers forcibly dispersed the mid-day demonstration involving about 20 students from various universities in Java.

Denouncing the Assembly as a waste of state resources, the students demanded the government reduce prices, stop monopolistic business practices and cancel plans to renominate Suharto.

"Indonesia is a Republic, not a Kingdom" and "Suharto, We Want You No More", read two of the numerous banners written in both Indonesian and English.

Security officers armed with truncheons and German shepherds rushed to the scene after the students began unfurling banners and chanting slogans. The 10-minute commotion caused curious motorists to slow down, resulting in traffic jams in the area.

"They are now in custody at Polda (city police headquarters)," Major General K. Harseno, chief of the Jakarta Military Command, said when asked by reporters during a break in the session.

The Indonesian Front for the Defense of Human Rights (Infight), which condemned the detention, said five students were arrested following the demonstration. It identified them as Yeni Damayanti, Hendrik Feri (all from Jakarta), Effendi Saman and Fery Yuliantono (both from Bandung) .

Harseno dismissed the allegations that the students actions amounted to a public disturbance. "It is a common event," he said.

In a written statement made available to the press, the students said the soaring prices triggered by the oil price hikes announced on January 7 were hurting the common people. They noted that legislators have had their salaries increased by 300 percent. They said Indonesia is caught in a debt trap as its foreign debt has reached an estimated US$80 billion.

Senior military officers played down the protests yesterday, saying they saw it as part of the "dynamics" of the general session. "We will ask the students what message they were trying to convey," Armed Forces Commander General Edi Sudrajat said.

Coordinating Minister of Political Affairs and Security Sudomo condemned the protest.

"I hope none of them will be detained," he said.

Security officers also briefly questioned three reporters from AN TV [Andalas Television] when they tried to slip past the security post at the northern gate of the MPR building. Security officers were furious when reporters, who stormed the northern gate of the MPR building en masse, tried to take long-shot pictures of officers taking the four students to two waiting cars in front of the security post.

"No pictures," an officer shouted at TV cameramen who were shooting from behind the high MPR green fences. "You beat them," the officer told one of his subordinates in a hoarse voice before they whisked the students off to the city police headquarters.

An MPR member, asked to comment about the incident, said he resented the students' actions.

"The students are asking for an end to monopolistic practices. That is exactly what Muhamed Buang (Moslem-based United Development Party) is saying inside," Abu Hartono of the ABRI [Armed Forces of Republic of Indonesia] faction said.

Papers Comment on New Cabinet

BK2103085993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 19 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Almost all the dailies in Jakarta today commented on the structure and personalities of the ministers in the sixth development cabinet, which had just been appointed by President Suharto at the State Palace this morning. The structure and line up of personnel in the sixth development plan is a transition from the old pattern to a new one, which will include the change from old ministers to new ministers holding strategic portfolios such as human resources, economy, finance, industrial and trade affairs, and technology.

KOMPAS says that President Suharto is doing the right thing in his personnel line up for the sixth development cabinet in an effort to create coordination, integration, and synchronization between ministers to work as a team. In view of this, KOMPAS hopes that all selected ministers can provide a good example to show that they can uphold and step up national discipline by providing efficient service to the people, and creating a clean and capable government image.

REPUBLIKA says the government evidently has taken the right step by bringing in about 55 percent new faces into the cabinet. This is in line with the effort to fulfill the people's expectations for changes in various sectors, especially in the fields of economy and technology. At the same time, the choice of having more new members in the cabinet is not damaging the basic foundation of development in Indonesia. Therefore, steps toward a better atmosphere have been taken even though there are still plenty of challenges and obstacles cabinet ministers will have to face.

POST KOTA and JAYAKARTA say that the challenges the sixth development cabinet must face are: how to maintain achievements such as rice self-sufficiency and how to grow more food crops other than paddy as industrial development continues to be intensified; how to expand job opportunities; and how to set up industrial plants that utilize locally produced basic materials and apply effective technology?

ANGAKATAN BERSENJATA and BERITA YUDHA write the selected ministers probably will have to apply a modern management system, which is accompanied by matured planning, accurate implementation, and tight supervision of the system. They must also work in coordination, integration, and synchronization as a team. The ministers will also have to be sincere and fair in accordance to what the head of state expects. With this, all challenges and obstacles ahead could be (?fully) overcome.

Laos

National Assembly Chief Receives DPRK Envoy

BK2003040293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Chairman of the National Assembly Saman Vignaket received Chang Yong-chun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Laos, yesterday at the National Assembly Hall. The DPRK ambassador made a courtesy call on Saman Vignaket to congratulate him on his election as chairman of the National Assembly during the inaugural meeting of the assembly, which was successfully held in late February.

On this occasion, Saman Vignaket thanked the DPRK ambassador for his visit, congratulations, and best wishes extended to him. The Korean envoy and the Lao national assembly chief discussed various issues and current developments in the region and also exchanged views on the further promotion of the relations between the two countries, Laos and Korea.

Border Security With Thailand To Increase

BK2103074893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The local-level Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao Border Peacekeeping Coordination Committees of Laos' Bokeo Province and Thailand's Chiang Rai Province, on the morning of 18 March held a joint consultative meeting on their operations in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province. For the meeting, the Lao side was led by Vilai Gnoulasin, deputy governor of Bokeo Province, while the Thai delegation was headed by Khamron Buncheut, governor of Chiang Rai Province.

The meeting participants mainly discussed the relations and cooperation between the two provinces in maintaining peace and security along the border. Both sides agreed that they should step up measures to eradicate the bad elements that cause disturbances and unrest among the people living along the common border dividing the two provinces. All this is to make this part of the borderline, as well as along the entire Lao-Thai border, really become a border of peace, friendship, and cooperation in the interests of both countries, Laos and Thailand.

Meeting With Thai Committee Reported

BK2203084193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 22 Mar 93

["Urgent news" from Foreign Affairs Ministry]

[Text] The Lao-Thai Joint Border Committee led by Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the Thai-Lao Joint Border Committee led by Surin Phitsuwan, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, held the third consultative meeting and talks in Thailand's Phuket Province from 16 to 18 March 1993. In the meeting, the chairman of the Lao-Thai Joint Border Committee and the chairman of the Thai-Lao Joint Border Committee agreed with each other that the political changes in the world and the region have resulted in enhancing the cooperation between Laos and Thailand in all respects.

The meeting heard reports presented by chairmen of the technical subcommittees of both the Lao and Thai sides and expressed satisfaction over their sincere intentions and joint achievements in fulfilling their tasks and responsibilities. The subcommittees discussed the issue concerning the disputes over border areas in Boten District, Sayaboury Province of Laos, and in Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province of Thailand, on the basis of the Franco-Siamese Treaty of 23 March 1907 and the relevant protocol and maps as well as the information collected through actual inspection on the past three occasions.

Nevertheless, the two sides have acknowledged that some different views on the issue still remain. The joint committees of both sides have, therefore, assigned the technical subcommittees of both sides to seriously continue to gather more concrete information—both on legal points and on the geographical conditions in the area connecting Laos' Boten District and Thailand's Chat Trakan District. The information will be presented to the Lao and Thai joint border committees for consideration at an extraordinary meeting to be held in Vientiane in late 1993.

New Justice Minister Meets Judicial Personnel

BK2203112593 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Vientiane, March 22 (KPL)—Justice Minister Kham-ouan Boupha last Saturday met with personnel of the People's Court of Vientiane Municipality to discuss and assess the past activities in law enforcement in the municipality.

At the meeting, the minister heard a report on the law enforcement by the municipal court and gave (?instructions) to the judicial personnel on some pressing work to be carried out in the immediate future. This was to (?enable the management) of the state and society by law be strictly and effectively implemented.

Earlier, the justice minister had similar meetings with the personnel of the people's court in the seven districts of the municipality.

Philippines

Vice President Ambushed by Rebels in Batangas

HK2003090593 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Joseph Estrada, vice president and Presidential Anti-Crime Commission [PACC] chairman, and several PACC agents were ambushed by several renegade New People's Army [NPA] rebels, believed to be headed by Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Comrade Hector, in Barangay San Vicente, Santo Tomas, Batangas this afternoon. According to a report filed by Francis Callado of DZRH Unit 23, Estrada and his men were nearing the site where Umiral Matik, a Bureau of Internal Revenue regional director, was believed to have been buried when they were fired on by Comrade Hector's group. Special Police Officer [SPO] 4 Nelson Soriano and SPO1 Francisco Nadak were wounded during the one-hour fire fight that followed. Soriano sustained wounds in the hand and back.

Being outnumbered, the vice president and his men were forced to retreat and called on the Southern Luzon Command [Solcom] for reinforcements. Estrada's group went to Santo Tomas to exhume the remains of Matik, who was kidnaped earlier by Comrade Hector and his men in connivance with the Red Scorpion Group on the orders of an unidentified mayor. A certain Comrade Manny, a former member of Comrade Hector's group, admitted that the group bludgeoned and knifed Matik to death when the victim's family failed to give the 10 million Philippine pesos demanded. Estrada and the PACC agents had Matik's daughter with them when they went to Santo Tomas, Batangas so that she could identify her father's remains.

Meanwhile, General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief-of-staff, has ordered the Solcom in Lucena City to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety of Vice President Estrada. He also ordered the Solcom to provide the PACC and the Philippine National Police with all the equipment they may request in line with their mission to retrieve Matik's body from the Red Scorpion Group's area. Two Huey Helicopters from the Philippine Air Force have already been sent to the site of the encounter.

Several AFP units stationed near Barangay San Vicente, including several additional helicopter gunships, are on stand-by in the event that the PACC should need them. Abadia, who is now in Baguio for the Philippine Military Academy graduation ceremonies, was deeply concerned with the vice president's safety. Solcom officials continue to monitor the events in Santo Tomas, Batangas, but it has yet to receive a specific request from the PACC.

In related news, Gregorio Rosal, alias Comrade Roger, spokesperson for the NPA's Melito Glor Command, has confirmed that it was Comrade Hector's group that attacked Vice President Estrada and his men. Comrade Roger, by means of a two-way radio, also expressed his support for the vice president's efforts against the NPA lost command known as Dos Pares [two pairs], believed to be led by Comrade Hector. Up to now, it still cannot be determined how many of Comrade Hector's men have pinned down the vice president and his men. However, Estrada estimates that they are up against 50 to 60 rebels.

Comrade Hector Denies Responsibility

HK2203091593 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Comrade Hector, today denied his group was involved in the ambush of the group of Vice President Joseph Estrada last Saturday.

In an interview with DZMM this morning, Comrade Hector said members of his former group have scattered and left the New People's Army [NPA] Banahaw Command since he left the movement. He added that he is not involved in a group called Siete Pares [seven pairs]. Only a few of his former men are now working with him, and their main concern now is the setting up a cooperative in Southern Tagalog.

[Begin Mabilangan recording] I have comrades who have scattered and left NPA since I left. Now, I have a few people who are helping me form a working committee for the cooperative down to the barangay level and the foundation. [end recording]

Comrade Hector also stressed that the area where the ambush occurred was not his territory, since his area of operations only covered Quezon. He also denied he was involved in the kidnaping and murder of Umiral Matic [a district officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue].

Nevertheless, Mabilangan said he is ready to continue participating in the peace talks, although he has become bothered by the continued surveillance and harassment by the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission [PACC] in various cases.

[Begin Mabilangan recording] I am beginning to feel that I am being followed. I have also obtained information that King Lacson and his group are bent on hitting me. I got this information from two sources. This is a cause of concern on my part and the working committee I am forming because despite our efforts to help facilitate development in the countryside, the vice president continues to attack and link me to various cases. For my part, I feel difficulty although I still fully trust Congressman Marcial Punzalan Jr., Congressman Eduardo Ermita, Speaker Jose de Venecia and President Ramos. After all, they are the ones I deal with; they are the ones who are telling me to continue the projects assigned to me by the president. [end recording]

In a related development, the PACC will today arrest the mayor of San Pablo City who was linked to several kidnaping operations allegedly undertaken by Comrade Hector. Mayor Vicente Amante was ordered arrested by Vice President Joseph Estrada after he was mentioned by former NPA rebel Manuel Belmoris, as the mastermind in the kidnaping and murder of BIR District Officer Umiral Matic. Estrada said Amante also helped Comrade Hector in the kidnaping of Robert Yao of Cabuyao, Laguna.

Estrada said they have strong evidence against the San Pablo City mayor in relation to the Matic case, while more evidence is being collected on the Yao case. Meanwhile, no court has as yet issued a warrant of arrest for Mayor Amante.

Here is a follow-up report from our reporter number 15, Vicky Robles.

[Begin Robles recording] As of this moment, the warrant for the arrest for San Pablo Mayor Vicente Amante has not been issued. This was revealed to DZMM by PACC legal division chief Jacinto Gonzales. Gonzales said a preliminary investigation is needed before the Department of Justice requests the courts to issue a warrant of arrest.

Nevertheless, the preliminary investigation can be conducted within a day, depending on the documents present. PACC has also sent the testimony of Balmoris, who linked the mayor to the abduction of Matic and Yao. This afternoon, the PACC legal staff will get support from fiscals [equivalent to district attorneys] Ferdinand Abesamis, George Dy, Nilo Mariano, and Ben Sunion regarding cases involving Comrade Hector and other people. Gonzales said Vice President Estrada also wants to be fair to Amante by ensuring that documents against him are in order. Meanwhile, the residents of San Pablo are holding a People Power demonstration to protect their mayor. [end recording]

Ramos, Romulo Call for Greater 'Economic Diplomacy'

HK2203053493 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Mar 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo yesterday sought to put an end to the country's special relations with the United States and strengthen trade partnership with the former colonizer.

Romulo, who attended the second National Security Council meeting in Malacanang, said a review of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Relations in the "post-bases era" would enhance the country's economic competitiveness.

This is in line with President Ramos' thrust on "economic diplomacy," he said.

The President meanwhile, said he welcomed the evolution of relations with the United States "from one governed by post-colonial arrangements to one governed by straight-forward economic and strategic considerations."

With the U.S. military bases gone, Romulo said, the Philippines should not expect to be treated with equal importance by the Clinton administration as it does other Asia-Pacific countries like Japan.

"We're no longer a strategic ally (of the United States). No more special relationship. We're just now an ordinary country to them. That's a statement of fact," Romulo told reporters.

He said the President was also convinced that the post-Cold War era has brought the Philippines closer to its neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and given the country a chance to raise its economic competitiveness.

Romulo said the Philippines would rather be seen in the world community as part of multilateral organizations like ASEAN "looking at the perspective of regional stability."

For a start, Romulo said, the Philippines has to compete with the rest of the world for the U.S. market within the constraints of trade and industrial sanctions and the trade and investment diversion in food, textiles, chemicals, metal products, electrical and electronics products.

He cited the North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA) which he said could discriminate against Philippine goods.

The President said the country must reach a "level of genuine equality and mutual respect," and concurred with the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs]-proposed economic diplomacy program based on the following actions:

—Intensifying efforts to promote investment, trade, technology transfer and tourism while maintaining official development assistance levels.

—Conducting discussions leading to agreement on market issues such as intellectual rights, extension of Generalized Scheme of Preference (GSP) privileges to cushion the effects of trade diversion arising from the NAFTA, and outward processing scheme on garments and other industries.

—Reorganizing the DFA and foreign posts, regarding each embassy or consulate as a "country-team" with annual economic work programs.

—Involving the consulates as well as Filipino-American communities in economic activities and networking with foreign business communities.

Ramos To Ask for Increased Administrative Powers

HK2003061593 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] President Ramos will no longer be asking for emergency powers to solve the country's energy crisis. Instead, the president will ask Congress to grant his administration powers to bypass several government agency guidelines, which hinder the execution of its fast-track projects.

The president made this clarification in light of negative comments from legislators who fear that the requested emergency powers may be abused and used to impose martial law. According to him, he only wanted to have the power to enact emergency and calamity measures that will facilitate the resolution of the current power crisis.

In related news, Senate President Edgardo Angara said discussions on the measures are now under way. The president has already presented his proposed measures before the National Security Council and they are scheduled for submission to Congress before they are implemented.

Government Borrowing Down 13.5 Percent in 1992

HK2203045993 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 Mar 93 p 11

[Text] The country last year borrowed total loans amounting to $2.28 billion, down 13.5 percent from 1991's total of $2.64 billion. Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo attributed the decline on loans to the recession in Japan and to the refocusing by the Asian Development Bank [ADB] of its aid to Eastern Europe. Despite the decline in actual loans negotiated, total loans surpassed the target of $1.91 billion by 18.7 percent.

About half of the loans acquired last year amounting to $1.082 billion went to energy and power-related projects. This is in support to the government's thrust to solve the power crisis as soon as possible in order to attract investors. General budget support got 18.2 percent of $420 million while public works projects got 13 percent of $304 million. At least six percent of the total loans acquired or $129 million were relent to the private sector and non-governmental organizations through governmental financial institutions.

Some of the loans were also allocated for social services, environments and natural resources, agriculture and transportation and communication. Japan, the country's biggest creditor, cut its loans to the Philippines by 17.93 percent of $1.053 billion from $1.283 billion in 1991. The bulk of the loans, or 70 percent, amounting to $736 million came from the Japan Eximbank to finance power-related and energy-related projects, the balance includes $200 million from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund [OECF] as commodity assistance for the rehabilitation of areas affected by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. Eximbank loans are provided at quasi-commercial terms with interest pegged at Japan's long term prime rate and maturity of 15 years inclusive of four years grace period. OECF loans on the other hand carry 30 years maturity inclusive of 10 years grace period.

The BD [Bundesbank] reduced its loans to the country last year by 59.65 percent to $246 million from $609.7 million in 1991. The ADB board however approved $353 million for last year. The larger amount of commitments in 1991 is a result of the carry-over of board approvals in 1990. At least 35 percent of the ADB loans or $87 million were sourced from highly concessional special fund resources with standard government repayment terms of 35 years inclusive of 10 years grace period. On the other hand, the World Bank increased its loans to the country by 12 percent to $630.3 million from $564 million last year.

Thailand

DPRK 'Concerned' About Air Agreement Report

BK2003020093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Mar 93 p A4

[Excerpts] The North Korean Embassy here yesterday questioned a report that Thailand was at first reluctant to ink its first air service agreement with Pyongyang because of North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [passage omitted]

A Foreign Ministry source, who asked not to be named, said on Thursday the agreement had been planned long before North Korea's decision to drop out of the nuclear treaty.

The source said North Korea's move made Thailand "somewhat reluctant" but Bangkok went ahead with the signing ceremony on grounds that international politics should be seperated from mutual cooperation.

Hwang Yong-hwan, political councillor of the North Korean Embassy, told THE NATION that all Thai Foreign Ministry officials the embassy contacted never expressed concerns about the nuclear treaty issue.

He reiterated North Korea's move should be considered an internal affair.

Some Thai officials even expressed "sympathy" with North Korea, the diplomat said.

He said he was "surprised" and "deeply concerned" about the news report. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Condemns 'Massacre' of Vietnamese in Cambodia

BK1903140593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Speaking on the recent massacre of more than 30 Vietnamese, mainly women and children, in Siem Reap Province of Cambodia, Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Information Department and spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, said to newsmen that it is the direct responsibility of the UN Transitional Authority of Cambodia, or UNTAC, to investigate the incident to find evidence and establish facts about it. The UNTAC has the duty of maintaining peace in Cambodia. The spokesman said that in the name of the Thai Government, he condemned the act and appealed to those who were responsible to stop committing such a crime since it does not contribute to improving the situation, but rather undermines the peace and stability in Cambodia. He added that any problem about the continued presence of Vietnamese elements in Cambodia should be settled after the holding of a general election and formation of a government in Cambodia.

Paper Urges Ending 'Ethnic Cleansing' in Cambodia

BK2003023293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Mar 93 p A6

[Editorial: "The Ethnic Cleansing in Cambodia Must Be Stopped"]

[Text] It is not surprising that Prince Norodom Sihanouk has finally spoken out by urging ethnic Vietnamese to leave Cambodia as soon as possible because the situation in the country is "out of control." As it is well-known, there is no love lost between Sihanouk and the Vietnamese. During the prince's reign in Cambodia before 1970, the Vietnamese were also his target for persecution.

The saddest thing in Cambodia now is that all the Cambodian factions are not saying anything about the recent massacres of Vietnamese civilians.

For years, ethnic Vietnamese have settled, always at their own risk, in Cambodia, helping with the country's economy and doing the odd jobs the locals are not good at. Although the xenophobia runs deep in Cambodian Society, the average Cambodians, without instigations carried out by the "third-hand", tolerate their presence because they are helpful to the overall economy. These Vietnamese are Cambodians, they have Cambodian names and speak Khmer. They are like their Chinese counterparts throughout Southeast Asia.

Killings of ethnic Vietnamese apparently are on the rise after the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) identified seven Vietnamese soldiers serving in the Phnom Penh forces. Right after the UN announcement, 34 Vietnamese settlers were killed.

With the Khmer Rouge's ongoing campaign to use the Vietnamese as a scapegoat for their intransigence and other problems in Cambodia, it is high time the international community seriously scrutinize this problem. If the atrocities against the Vietnamese continue, Cambodia could turn into another Bosnia where ethnic cleansing will be the order of the day.

The Khmer Rouge targeted the Vietnamese as if they had the licence to kill mercilessly. Without any international sanctions imposed through Untac, the Khmer Rouge will further exploit the volatile situation and create havoc in Cambodia, so much so that the coming May elections could be jeopardized.

Cambodia's economy would immediately be stalled without the presence of ethnic Vietnamese. Cambodians alone cannot fill all the jobs and provide the same expertise as the Vietnamese—something which they had been doing for centuries.

Replacing the Vietnamese with other foreigners would not be practical either. The Thai presence in Cambodia has become a nuisance to local people. Thai businessmen known for their limitless greed have already plundered everything they can lay their hands on in Cambodia.

Essentially, ways must be found to stop Vietnamese from southern Vietnam flocking into Cambodia, seeking job opportunities and other gains after Hanoi overran Cambodia in 1979. With the presence of 20,000 UN peacekeeping troops and the opportunities for making money which comes with it, these Vietnamese are crossing the border looking for a better life. This latter group has created resentment among local people.

Kicking out ethnic Khmer Vietnamese now is not going to improve the situation in Cambodia as it will worsen the whole scheme of things. It will open new wounds that would pave the way for the Khmer Rouge to make Cambodian society go septic. When the cancer sets in, the Khmer Rouge then will plunge the country back into the dark ages.

Prasong Visits Cambodia 'To Repair' Image

BK2003021093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Mar 93 p A2

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri will travel today to Cambodia's northwestern town of Banteay Meanchey as part of a government effort to repair its image, badly damaged by charges that Thailand is a major trader with the Khmer Rouge.

Prasong told reporters in Bangkok yesterday that he planned to attend briefings on the current situation in Cambodia before meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali, who will visit Bangkok on the first leg of an April 6-12 tour which includes stops in Vietnam and Cambodia.

During his one-day trip to Banteay Meanchey, Prasong will preside over the opening ceremony of a Thai-Cambodian Friendship School in Ban Nimit and hand over educational materials, including textbooks, to Phnom Penh's Deputy Minister of Education Sar Kapun, representing Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC).

Recently, booby traps planted near the school exploded when a Thai military truck ran over them. It was later learned that Cambodian villagers who lost land expropriated for the school were behind the incident.

The elementary school, situated near Highway 5, was constructed by the First Thai Engineer Battalion based in Poipet with Bt[baht]3.7 million provided by the Thai government and additional funds from the Thai and Cambodian private sectors.

The government plans to build two more schools in the Poipet and Sisophon districts.

Prasong will also visit First Engineer Battalion based in Poipet and the Second Engineer Battalion in Sisophon to be briefed on problems confronting the units. Both task forces were dispatched to Cambodia last year to facilitate the UN peacekeeping mission in Cambodia.

The First Engineer Battalion was responsible for clearing mines and repairing the 48-km stretch on Highway 5 from Poipet to Sisophon as well as other construction projects. The Second Engineer Battalion serves under the flag of the UN body to help improve the infrastructure in Cambodia.

The construction of schools was included in the Thai government's activities to support peace efforts and rehabilitate war-ravaged Cambodia.

Thailand was a staging area for the UN operation in Cambodia, which started in 1992, and helped facilitate the repatriation of about 300,000 Cambodian refugees expected to be completed in April.

However, the government's stance that it would only comply with the UN-sponsored trade sanctions adopted last November if they did not go against Thai laws was widely criticized as a sign of reluctance, thus damaging Thailand's credibility in the international community.

Recently, UN reports stated that Thailand was a major violator of the sanctions on Cambodian log exports mainly involving the Khmer Rouge. Thai traders have long been partners in the logging business with the Khmer Rouge.

Dedicates School, Views Situation

BK2103092993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri yesterday presided over the opening ceremony of the Thai-Cambodian friendship school in Ban Nimit, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia. Speaking during an interview with newsmen after the ceremony, Prasong said the school is one of the three schools given to the Cambodian Government by Thailand. It was constructed by the First Army Engineering Battalion, whose mission is to repair a stretch of highway in Cambodia, and another Thai engineering battalion, whose duty is to cooperate with UN forces in a program to clear mines and repair roads in Cambodia. The mission of the two battalions on behalf of Thailand was something of which to be proud.

Asked about the repatriation of Cambodian refugees, the foreign minister said that, to date, about 340,000 Cambodians have been sent home under the program organized by the refugees repatriation coordination center and the United Nations. There are still about 40,000 to 50,000 left to be repatriated. This should be completed before 30 March according to the plan. By then, all refugee holding centers will be closed down.

The foreign minister said those Cambodians who have returned home could contribute to national development besides taking part in the coming general election arranged by the United Nations in late May. Meanwhile, Prasong said he had a personal concern regarding the elections in Cambodia because there is still a lack of order there—there is no unity among the Cambodian factions and the Cambodian voters are still not ready to exercise their rights. It is not known whether the election results will be accepted by the various Cambodian factions, especially the Khmer Rouge, which is not taking part in the coming election. It is not known how the post-election government will be accepted by and whether it will get cooperation from the Khmer Rouge. Those problems are of concern, he said, adding that the various Cambodian factions must think about it. They must try to achieve national reconciliation in order for the elections to be held smoothly and produce a result conducive for the formation of a government, which will successfully implement a program to achieve national development and welfare for the Cambodian people.

Minister Proposes Cambodian 'Joint Development Zone'

BK2203012993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Khon Kaen—Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday said he would propose the setting up of a "joint development zone" in Cambodia to be administered by the four rival Cambodian factions.

He said it was possible to "fight with one hand and use the other to develop the country" and hoped the rival factions would agree to the proposal if they cared for the future of Cambodian youth.

Speaking during the closing of the seminar "Isan: Gateway to trade with Indochina", Gen Chawalit said he would make the proposal to Cambodian leaders when he visits the country on March 24.

He said he had already made the proposal to Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, but had yet to propose it to Democratic Kampuchea's Khieu Samphan, FUNCINPEC's Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and Khmer People's National Liberation Front leader Son Sann.

Gen Chawalit is scheduled to lead an Interior Ministry delegation to the war-torn country to discuss bilateral problems such as cross border banditry, car theft rackets and among other issues.

The minister said half of his military career was spent dealing with the Indochinese problem and he knew all the Cambodian leaders. He would propose the scheme to them as an old friend.

"I will ask them 'do you really want want to exterminate the Cambodian race. If yes, then go on fighting and I will help you reach that end more quickly. But if not, if you want a future for Cambodian youth, then you must jointly set up a development zone'."

"We can use one hand to develop the country and the other to fight. In the end even if there are only a few hundred Cambodians left, they can develop the country from this joint development zone," he said.

As to the location and administration of the joint development one, the minister said it has yet to be worked out.

Gen Chawalit stressed that Thai businessmen wishing to invest in Indochina must have respect for the host countries and must think of long term mutual benefit.

He said it was "right" to perceive the three Indochinese countries—Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia—as both a market for Thai goods and as a source of raw material for Thai industries.

However, the minister warned that the philosophy of businessmen and economists to maximise profits and minimise costs must be expanded to include assistance to the host countries "from the heart".

Prime Minister Departs for Singapore 22 March

BK2203120793 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] At 1030 today, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation left Bangkok for official visits to Singapore and the Philippines from 22 to 26 March. The prime minister made his first official visit to Malaysia in January.

The prime minister and his delegation will first pay a visit to Singapore at the invitation of Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong from 22 to 24 March. Chuan is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on and hold discussions on bilateral issues with President Wee Kim Wee and senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, meet with Singapore private sectors, and observe shipping facilities and housing development projects.

During the visit to the Philippines from 24 to 26 March, the prime minister is scheduled to hold discussions with President Fidel Ramos on bilateral relations and ways to further increase bilateral trade and investment and meet with leading business figures. The University of the Philippines will also present an honorary doctorate degree to the prime minister.

Police Increase Security at Embassies

BK2103034093 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 21 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] The police have stepped up security at some foreign embassies as a precaution against terrorist attacks. More security officers have been sent to the embassies of Israel, India, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Egypt and some Middle East countries.

Pol Lt-Gen Phibun Kunlawanit, commander of the Special Branch Police Division, said yesterday that preventive measures are needed because of the escalation of conflicts in parts of the world including bomb explosions in India and the US. The Government does not want any calamity to occur in Thailand because it would seriously affect the country's tourism and investment, he said.

On Friday Muslims protested in front of the Israeli Embassy against alleged brutality towards Palestinians. Pol Lt-Gen Phibun said the police have been safeguarding the area and the situation is under control.

He ruled out any cause other than carelessness for the dynamite explosion at a Chiang Rai rock grinding plant in which eight people were killed on Friday. He called on the public not to protest or petition on certain issues but to put their case through representatives or their MPs.

Rice Exports Focus of Chuan Trip to Manila

BK2003010293 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Mar 93 p 22

[Text] The Prime Minister is to visit the Philippines to promote Thailand' rice exports to that country.

Rice exports in the first quarter have dropped significantly, with the result that local prices have reportedly fallen to between 3,000 and 3,400 baht a ton. Prices of second-crop paddy now range between 2,300 and 2,600 baht a ton.

The Government has not been able to export rice as planned. A source said exports in the first quarter are expected to be about 300,000 tons lower than the figure for the same period last year.

The Ministry expects to ship at least 100,000 tons a month in the second quarter. A total of 700,000 tons have been ordered: 220,000 by Iran, 300,000 by a private sector company, 100,000 by North Korea, and 40,000 each by Mauritania and Russia.

The Government is negotiating with Malaysia and the Philippines for counter trade of Thai rice for fertiliser.

India has approached to buy 400,000 tons of 25 percent and 35 percent rice on long-term credit. Negotiations are still under way, particularly on price: India has reportedly bid to buy at US$190 a ton, but the Foreign Trade Department has offered US$200-220 a ton, the same price as for North Korea's order.

It is unlikely that the Thai Government will sell the rice at a price lower than that agreed with North Korea considered the lowest Thailand can afford.

The source said certain rice exporters have been trying to beat prices down by spreading rumours of falling prices, and have been putting pressure on farmers by delaying purchases of paddy.

"They want to benefit from higher prices by forcing the Government to intervene and buy rice for its stock," the source said.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said he hopes Thailand will be able to export up to 4.4 million tons of rice this year as planned, despite depressed world prices. He said "offensive strategies" will be used to boost exports.

Meanwhile, the Government has agreed to provide financial help to second-crop rice farmers in 18 provinces.

Deputy Commerce Minister Chaiyot Sasomsap said the Interior Minister has been asked to employ funds left over from the first-crop price intervention scheme for the purpose.

The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives has been told to accept pledges at 90 percent of the targeted price for the 15 percent-moisture second-crop paddy.

Mr Chaiyot said it is expected that a total of 510 million baht will be needed for the scheme to shore up prices of 1.7 million tons of second-crop paddy.

Department Reports Decline in Rice Exports

BK2103144793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The Business Economics Department reported that Thailand's export of rice during the past two months has declined by 30 percent compared with the corresponding period last year. The export was only 602,800 tons, worth 4,190 million baht. The decline was attributed to the fact that importers, such as Indonesia, have become self-sufficient and even produced a surplus for exports. Meanwhile, the United States, which is a major rice exporter, has announced a subsidy for 750,000 tons of rice, or double of that last year. It is anticipated that Thai rice exports in 1993 will be only around 4.5 million tons, which is worth about 31,000 million baht, or a decrease of 6 percent from last year.

In 1992, Thailand exported about 4.8 million tons of rice worth over 35,000 million baht, or an increase of 10 percent over the exports in 1991. The large amount of exports in 1992 was due to a large amount of imports by Thailand's trading partners, Russia and Indonesia, which sufferred drought and water shortage.

Vietnam

'Source': Clinton To Send Delegation to Hanoi

OW2003022793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi, March 20 KYODO—A delegation from the United States will visit Vietnam in early April for talks with Vietnamese party and government officials, reliable sources here said Friday [19 March]. The four-member delegation, including a former senior official of the State Department, will visit for three days starting April 1 and hold talks with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, the sources said.

The U.S. delegation will study Vietnam's domestic and foreign affairs and report back to President Bill Clinton, the sources said. Clinton will use their findings to devise his policy on Vietnam, the sources said.

UN Envoy Meets U.S. Officials on Relations

BK2003123593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] As has been reported, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, Vietnamese chief delegate to the United Nations, met with Assistant Secretary of State William Clark and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (Kenneth Finns) at the office of the U.S. State Department in Washington D.C. on 17 March.

The two sides reviewed progress achieved in bilateral relations over the past few years, particularly since the two countries started entering the official process of normalization of relations in October 1991.

The two sides also exchanged views on measures to be taken to continue to promote relations and solve various residual issues between the two countries.

The two sides expressed deep concern and indignation over a recent massacre in Cambodia in which 32 civilians of Vietnamese origin were killed and 29 others wounded.

While working with the U.S. State Department, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang also had an opportunity to make unofficial contact and exchange views with Mr. Winston Lord, President Clinton's new nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific.

Also during his working visit to Washington prior to the conclusion of his five-year term of office at the United Nations, the ambassador on several occasions contacted and exchanged views with various U.S. congressmen, statesmen, and organizations in Washington D.C.

'Armed Uprising' Reportedly Crushed in HCMC

OW2103033993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0254 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi, March 21 KYODO—Vietnam's security authorities have arrested about 20 people for trying to stage an armed uprising in Ho Chi Minh City [HCMC] this month, well-placed sources in Hanoi said Sunday. Vietnam's mass media has maintained silence on the incident. But the sources said a group of repatriated Vietnamese armed with guns, grenades and explosives planned to occupy the state radio and television station and the offices of Vietnamese Communist Party organ paper NHAN DAN in central Ho Chi Minh City.

Security authorities apparently got advance word of the plot and mobilized police and troops to swoop on the rebel group. The sources said the plot was the brainchild of a Vietnamese who has returned from the United States. Further details were not immediately known. Separate sources said tanks are still being deployed around the broadcasting station in Ho Chi Minh City, the former capital of South Vietnam. Since early this year the Vietnamese Government has eased conditions on overseas Vietnamese wanting to return home.

Spokeswoman Announces Premier's Japan Visit

BK1903141593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Report on news conference by Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Ho The Lan on 18 March in Hanoi]

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will pay an official visit to Japan. This was announced by Ho The Lan, a spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry at a regular press conference in Hanoi on Thursday.

Commenting on this coming visit to Japan from March 24-28, Madame Ho The Lan said:

[Begin Ho The Lan recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] The Japan visit by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will be made at the invitation of the Japanese Government. This is the first official visit to Japan by the Vietnamese prime minister since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan. [end recording]

During the visit, the two sides will exchange views on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will hold talks with the Japanese counterpart, Miyazawa, on the (?coming) visit of the Japanese emperor. Vietnam respects and hopes for further development of relations on cooperation with Japan and ASEAN nations which are not very far from Vietnam geographically and which have favorable conditions from mutual cooperation in many fields in the interests of the two countries.

Vietnam is very pleased with the recent developments of the ties between the two countries. It is (?believed) that the trade turnovers between the two countries in 1992 reached 1.2 billion U.S. dollars. At present, Japan ranks third in doing business with Vietnam. Japan is the fifth country which has direct investment in Vietnam. Many Japanese companies have invested in Vietnam over recent months.

The spokeswoman concluded that the coming Japan visit by Premier Vo Van Kiet will further promote better development of relations between the two countries.

At the same press conference, Mrs. Ho The Lan dealt with the issue of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and the implementation of the Paris agreement. She said:

[Begin Ho The Lan recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] Vietnamese nationals living in Cambodia are overseas Vietnamese in Cambodia. Like many other overseas residents, they have the right to be treated equally. The UNTAC (the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia), the SNC (the Supreme National Council of Cambodia) must hold full responsibility to protect the peaceful life of Vietnamese nationals.

The international community should not allow the Khmer Rouge—which committed genocide—to continue its racial discrimination, massacre, and terrorism against the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. [end recording]

Mrs. Ho The Lan noted that all issues concerning Vietnam and Cambodia should be solved at the talks between the Vietnamese Government and the new Cambodian Government after the coming general election. And this is in accordance with the Vietnam-Cambodian joint communique signed on January 25, 1992 by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

It is commonly known that the Paris agreement on Cambodia was signed as a result of all efforts of the Cambodian parties and other countries concerned to overcome all difficulties. The agreement has received worldwide support. No government has supported the Khmer Rouge's acts of sabotage against the agreement and its refusal to take part in the coming general election in the country.

There is no denial that the Khmer Rouge has massacred against the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia as part of their plan to undermine the Paris peace agreement. These activities, especially the recent killing of 33 Vietnamese fishermen in Siem Reap Province has created strong worldwide indignation. Vietnam calls on UNTAC, SNC, and other countries and the entire world, including the Cambodian people, to stop the criminal hand of the Khmer Rouge.

VNA Reports Condemnation of Khmer Rouge 'Massacre'

BK2003150493 Hanoi VNA in English 1403 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 20—Governments and mass organisations all over the world continue to voice their condemnation against the Khmer Rouge's massacre of 33 Vietnamese nationals in the Cambodian Province of Siem Reap on March 10. A representative of the State of Cambodia on March 16 called on the U.N. to open a tribunal to try the Khmer Rouge for its crimes against humankind and its racial purge against Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

In a statement released on March 13, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, on behalf of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, expressed his griefs over the massacre which he strongly condemned and extended his apologies to the victims' families and the Vietnamese people and Government. On March 11, Mr Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), declared that 'this is a terrible action and a new act in a series of bloody massacres' and that 'UNTAC called on all Cambodian factions to unite in condemning these savage acts and their perpetrators'.

Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Ugglas on March 18 stated that the massacre must be condemned by the whole international community and that it was a further proof of Khmer Rouge's scheme to undermine the UN's efforts to restore peace and democracy in Cambodia.

The Australian Government has also vehemently condemned the Khmer Rouge's massacre and called it the worst incident and a brazen violence of the commitments of the signatories to the Paris agreement on Cambodia. [sentence as received]

A spokesman of the British Foreign Ministry on March 17 stated the U.K. condemnation of the massacre and called on UNTAC to take necessary measures to see to it that the criminals be brought to trial.

In a cable relayed to the Vietnamese Government on March 17 by its ambassador in Phnom Penh, the French Government called the Khmer Rouge's massacre an intolerable act.

Also on March 17, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock condemned Khmer Rouge's savage crime and said that this faction's murderous nature has not changed.

Following a March 12 statement by the spokesman of the US State Department, Richard Boucher, on March 15, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs William Clark Jr, sent a letter to the Vietnamese Mission to the UN, expressing the US's deep concerns and sharing the indignation of the Vietnamese Government against the present racial purges in Cambodia.

Mass organisations in many other countries, including Cambodia, Laos and Mongolia have also issued statements condemning the Khmer Rouge's crime and demanding that the SNC and UNTAC take measures to protect innocent civilians in Cambodia.

World Peace Council Opens Regional Conference

BK1903145793 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 19—A regional conference on peace, cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific opens here today in the presence of Evangelos Maheras, president of the World Peace Council.

The Council Honorary President Romesh Chandra and 13 delegations from the region are present. The Vietnamese delegation is headed by Phan Hien, vice president of the Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations (UPSFO). The opening session was also attended by Nguyen Quang Tao, acting president of the UPSFO, ambassadors and other representatives of the embassies of the countries in the region, the representatives of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Germany) and other organizations. The conference is aimed at promoting the mutual understanding, cooperation for peace and development of the people in the region. On this occasion, Vietnamese specialists, intellectuals, and high-ranking officials will exchange views with foreign delegates on the all-sided development in Vietnam, especially since the beginning of its renovation process.

The conference will hear reports on the changes in the world, the situation in the Asia and the Pacific, regional cooperation in socio-economic and cultural develohment, the north-south and south-south relations, and other issues.

Do Muoi Receives Council President

BK2003144893 Hanoi VNA in English 1412 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 20—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee today received Romesh Chandra, honorary president of the World Peace Council [WPC], who is here for the current regional conference for peace, cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific.

General Secretary Do Muoi welcomed President Romesh Chandra, an active fighter for world peace, a close friend of the Vietnamese people, and thanked the latter for his lofty sentiments as well as those of the

Indian people towards the Vietnamese people. He reaffirmed that people towards the always strive to contribute to the common peace movement of the people in the region and in the world over, and that they have been trying their best to constantly consolidate and develop the friendship, solidarity and multi-sided cooperation between Vietnam and India. [sentence as received]

Meeting Closes

BK2103140993 Hanoi VNA in English 1357 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21—The regional conference on peace, cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific ended here today.

Speaking at the ending session of the three-day conference, Vice Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh expressed his joy over the success of the conference which he described as an active contribution to prometing the mutural understanding among the countries in the region. He noted that in the recent years the relations between Vietnam and the countries in the Asian-Pacific region have been improved. 'Vietnam persists in carrying out its the spirit of Vietnam wanting to be friend with all the countries in the international community and striving for peace, independence and development', he reiterated.

The participants spoke of various issues, but they all expressed their wish to contribute to establishing the mutual understanding of the people in the region and building a stable, friendly , peaceful and developed region.

Australia

Government Supports Yeltsin in Russian Crisis

BK2203024493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0226 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] CANBERRA, March 22 (AFP)—Australia repeated Monday its support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, but said the West must not be seen to be interfering in Russian internal affairs. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said it was important that the international community should not try to resolve Russia's problems for it.

"The overwhelming majority of Russians do want to look forward to a democratic and economically secure future that they firmly believe can only be achieved (with) a relationship with the west," he said.

They also wanted a continuation of the kinds of reforms that President Yeltsin had set in train, Evans said. But he added: "One always has to be careful about commenting, however, in a way that may be construed as interference in the internal affairs of any country. It is important that all of us in the international community not try and resolve Russia's problems for it."

Yeltsin, facing opposition for his reform programs from the conservative dominated Congress of Peoples' Deputies, on Saturday imposed presidential rule and announced plans to proceed with a referendum on Russia's future on April 25. While Australia hoped Yeltsin would be able to maintain the momentum for democracy and market reforms, there was cause for "real concern that's going to be possible," Evans told reporters.

Evans Views 'High-Risk Strategy'

BK2203054793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, says President Yeltsin's declaration of emergency rule in Russia is a high-risk strategy, but one which the international community understands. Senator Evans said the conflict which has erupted between the Russian president and the legislature has ensured that the reform processes are unable to continue. He said the circle has to be broken. While the situation was obviously volatile and dangerous, Senator Evans said he hoped there would be no outbreaks of violence.

Keating Advocates Creation of Republic

BK2103130693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Sydney, March 21 (AFP)—The creation of a republic of Australia would be "the ultimate conclusion" of the country's history and an assertion of its democracy, Prime Minister Paul Keating said Sunday. He also said the "ancient cultures" of neighbouring countries would take Australia more seriously if it proved its independence of mind. The remarks, made in Keating's first television interview since his Labor government was returned to office in the general election on March 13, went further than anything he had said on the subject during the election campaign.

Choosing his words with apparent deliberation, Keating said the creation of a republic would be "the ultimate act of conclusion." Australia, he told the commercial Channel Nine, "is quite an old democracy in world terms and the time has come when it should be asserting that absolutely." Asked how the idea of a republic fitted into his vision of Australia, he replied: "I believe we would be more confident about ourselves and more certain of ourselves when we know that we run our affairs absolutely, and that we choose—again absolutely—the people to manage us."

Australia gained its independence progressively after 1901 when six British colonies on its territory entered a federation. The right of the British parliament to legislate for Australia—although by then purely theoretical—was removed in 1986, the same year that appeals to the Privy Council were abolished. The only surviving constitutional links to Britain are the governor general, who acts as head of state in the name of Queen Elizabeth, and the six state governors, all of whom are appointed on the recommendation of the government.

Asked whether it would be an easy matter to transfer the powers of the governor general to a new head of state, Keating said: "Obviously you could have the same powers in an appointed person, one appointed by the government, but where the chambers of the parliament had an affirming role." It would require a referendum to change the constitution, and Keating said last Monday that he thought it impossible to organise sufficient public debate and a referendum before the next election in 1996.

While the Queen no longer has any political power in Australia, Keating acknowledged that the symbolism in breaking with the monarchy would be "enormous." "It concludes a chapter of our history," he said. "It clears up absolutely the question of our identity and our own right to govern ourselves and to arrange our own affairs."

He forecast that the switch to a republic would be welcomed in Asia and the Pacific, where several countries in the region have monarchies. "I think that in the area in which we live, which is an area of ancient cultures, that we'll be taken more seriously," he said. "There will be a greater welcome for us, a greater willingness to include us in the affairs of the region, if we are of independent mind.